

## So what's funny about TV comedy?

Thomas Sutcliffe endures a week's output

Section Two, cover story

## Play Formula 1 Dream Team

See Section Two, page 12

**Buy The Independent tomorrow and get the Independent on Sunday for 50p**

# Hole in ozone threatens UK

Worst damage ever is recorded this week

NICHOLAS SCHOON

The ozone layer over Britain has suffered the worst damage ever recorded, due to a combination of pollution and intense cold at high altitude.

The measurements, at Lerwick in Shetland and Camborne in Cornwall, surprised and alarmed scientists. They had forecast that the ozone should be on the verge of starting a recovery after decades of deterioration, thanks to international treaties curbing emissions of the industrial gases and solvents which destroy it.

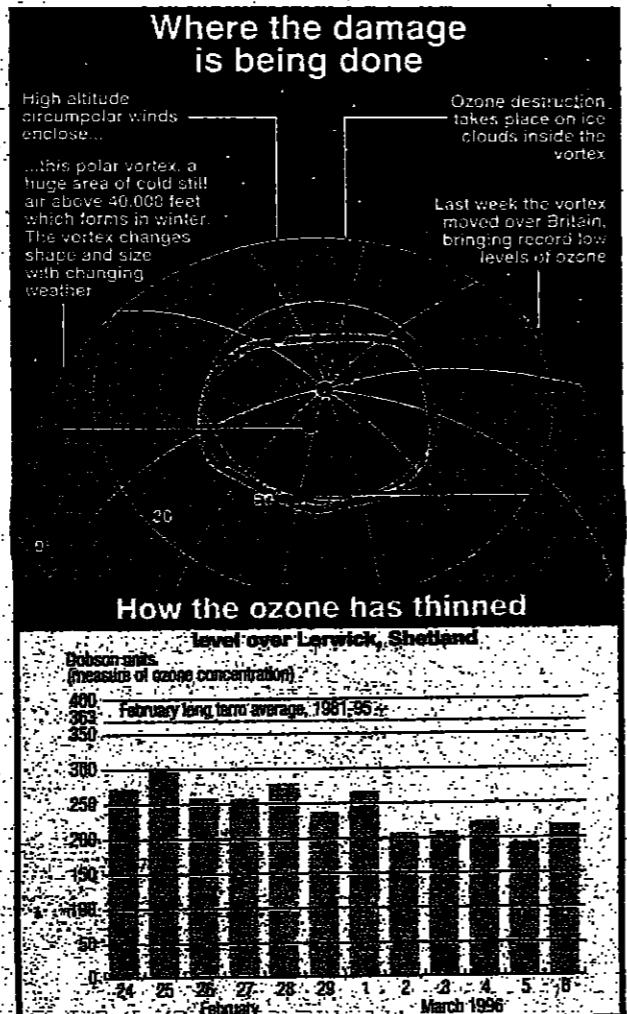
The ozone layer absorbs much of the harmful ultraviolet-B radiation in the sun's rays. High levels of these UVB rays can cause skin cancer and cataracts in humans, and can affect the environment, including crops, wild plants and sea plankton.

On Tuesday the Met Office ozone recording station at Lerwick, one of only two in the country, recorded 195 Dobson Units - a measure of the total quantity of ozone in the atmosphere immediately above. It was the first time there had been a reading below 200 in Britain. The same low levels were recorded as far away as Cornwall, where the highest was 206 Dobson Units. That was the lowest level recorded there since it was set up 17 years ago.

At Lerwick, this February's readings have, overall, been well below the month's long term average - but they have been especially low in the past 10 days, reaching a peak with Tuesday's record.

Dr Joe Farman, the British Antarctic Survey scientist who first discovered the ozone hole over the South Pole, said: "This is certainly significant, and shows the problems haven't gone away."

"We've warned that things



would get worse before they start to get better, but it's impossible to make any precise predictions. With very cold winters we have been getting at high altitude, the ozone loss could well accelerate."

Ozone is a gas found at very low concentrations in air. It absorbs UVB in the stratosphere - the upper atmosphere above 35,000 feet - and its concentration there fluctuates with changing weather patterns and season.

But there has been a gradual global decline in this high level ozone for several decades, thanks to the rapidly growing use of chemicals containing chlorine and bromine used in refrigeration, air conditioning and dry cleaning. These CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) and other compounds escape slowly into the stratosphere.

The first severe and rapid

ozone destruction was detected above the Antarctic in the mid-1980s. Each Spring in the southern hemisphere an "ozone hole" opens up there - a continent-sized patch of stratosphere in which half or more of the ozone has been lost.

This is caused by a complex cycle of chemical reactions, driven by sunlight, which take place on the surface of high altitude ice clouds.

Scientists have been debating whether similar ozone holes could open up over the Arctic, covering populated regions in northern Europe, Russia, Alaska and Canada.

They have monitored substantial ozone losses in recent northern hemisphere Springs. Last year's was among the worst ever.

Dr Farman said the ozone destruction taking place this Spring over the northern hemisphere could be worse still. "We have to get it through to the politicians that we have not yet cleaned up this stuff," he said.

Man-made global warming, caused by a build-up of heat trapping gases, appears to be exacerbating the ozone loss. While temperatures rise in the lower atmosphere, those in the stratosphere drop. This makes sustained ozone destruction more likely, because it helps the formation of the high level ice clouds and allows them to exist for longer.

Since 1987, a series of international negotiations have imposed tighter controls on the production of ozone-destroying chemicals.

The latest agreement, under this Montreal Protocol treaty, took place in Vienna last December. But environmental organisations like Greenpeace and atmospheric scientists like Dr Farman say the rate of progress is still too slow.

## Chechen capital in grip of rebels



Spots of war: Homes in Grozny smoulder after a fierce bombardment during yesterday's clashes between Russian troops and separatist guerrillas

Photograph: AFP

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow  
  
Chechen rebels last night appeared to have taken control of a third of Grozny, after launching their most intensive offensive for months in an attempt to steal the limelight from Russian President Boris Yeltsin's efforts to settle the conflict.

After a second day of ferocious street fighting and heavy shelling in the wrecked capital, Russian reinforcements were streaming in to flush out the Chechens, who had seized more than 80 Russian construction workers as hostages and were reportedly trying to storm the city's television centre.

Medical teams were unable to reach the bodies littering the streets because of the intensity of the fighting, according to the Russian news agency Interfax.

After promising Russians that he would solve the 15-month war before the presidential elections in June, Mr Yeltsin was yesterday faced with a worsening conflict that is threatening his poll prospects.

The Chechens appeared to have stepped up the attack to coincide with a meeting of the Russian Security Council to hammer out a solution to the war, in which some 30,000 lives have been lost.

The president said after the meeting that he had a framework of a blueprint for a settlement, and promised to reveal more next month.

But as he spoke, reports poured in of renewed fighting, in which Russian troops were under fire all across the city.

A force of between 500 and 1,000 rebels were in the city on the orders of the Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who is rumoured to have placed them under command of Shamil Basayev, who led the hostage-taking raid on a southern Russian town last year. Although most reporters were prevented from access, reports trickled out of battles around the city-centre headquarters of the regional government, and almost every Russian-occupied military post.

Reports also circulated that the rebels - who seized several police stations, a hospital and a hostel - had cut off the Russian lines of communication, creating confusion among their ranks.

Thorn in Yeltsin's side, page 13

## Fury over secret plan to scrap job rights

PATRICIA WYNNE DAVIES  
Political Correspondent

Michael Heseltine was at the centre of a political row last night after a leaked letter revealed secret plans by the Government to scrap the unfair dismissal rights of millions of workers in small firms.

The proposal, by Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, suffered a humiliating setback yesterday after the leak forced John Major to scrap an announcement planned for next Monday.

But it was clear that the Government would seek to remove the industrial tribunal rights of up to 10 million workers if it could do so without failing foul of other laws.

Mr Major's intervention at Prime Minister's Questions followed the leak of a letter from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, warning Mr



Michael Heseltine: His idea suffered humiliating setback

Heseltine of his "grave doubts" about going public with the "immensely controversial" suggestion without taking legal advice.

The letter, passed to the Liberal Democrats, disclosed that an announcement was scheduled to be part of a package of

Tony Blair, the Labour

measures on cutting red tape for small businesses at a conference on Monday.

Between 9 and 10 million workers could be affected by the proposal, originating from Mr Heseltine's Deregulation Unit, with a suggested saving of £200m in the costs of unfair dismissal and other employment claims in industrial tribunals.

Mr Lang's suggestion in the letter that legal advice should be taken from the Government's law officers stems from fears within the Department of Trade and Industry that sweeping away the rights of workers in small firms could fail of foul of European law on sex discrimination, equal pay and pensions, maternity, health and safety and disability.

There was little sign yesterday, however, that ministers had any intention of dropping the plans altogether.

The letter, passed to the Liberal Democrats, disclosed that an announcement was sched-

uled to be part of a package of

leader, appeared to conclude after Commons exchanges with Mr Major that the proposal had been "dropped". But Mr Major confined his reply to the Monday announcement and emphasised: "There can be no employment rights if there is no employment. What we are seeking to do is to maintain a fair balance between the rights of employees and the burdens on employers. We are therefore proposing to reduce or remove unnecessary burdens."

The leaked letter indicated a determination on the part of Mr Heseltine to press ahead, despite potential legal risks.

Mr Lang said: "I... fully appreciate the law officers' advice on what might be legally possible."

"Any suggestion that employees in smaller firms were to be denied employment rights would, of course, be immensely controversial and it might be imprudent to attract such

criticism only to have to retract the proposal at a later date."

The plan drew immediate and loud condemnation from the opposition parties and the TUC. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education and employment spokesman, said: "The letter reveals a shabby attempt to deregulate to save £200m. It also reveals that Michael Heseltine is trying to call the tune of many different Government departments."

David Blunkett, the shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said the proposal was the "thin end of the wedge" and the first step towards denying protection to all employees. "We need positive ways to enable small firms to prosper," he said.

"Any suggestion that employees in smaller firms were to be denied employment rights would, of course, be immensely controversial and it might be imprudent to attract such

feeling for the traditional role of the Church of England as something open to everyone.

Psychological testing is already used by the Roman Catholic Church to screen its candidates for the ministry, but it places a greater emphasis on psychological stability under the strains of celibacy and loneliness, which are not expected to afflict Anglican candidates to the same extent.

The problem which confronts many Anglican dioceses is that many of their prospective priests come from a narrow background, and have little

experience of the world outside the church.

Michael Ramsay, who became an outstandingly holy Archbishop of Canterbury despite what was regarded by his colleagues as a legendary social incompetence, Chris Brain, the leader of the Nine-O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield, who passed all the hoops of the Anglican selection procedure, would be an example of someone the new test might help to exclude, Dr Cunliffe said.

The new tests will be regarded as a mixed blessing by many, will be added to the present selection process. This de-

rives from that used by the army as

something open to everyone.

Their model of a congregation is of a self-conscious group

clearly distinguished from the rest of society; while this may be

the fate of the Church of England, it is one which the auth-

orities are anxious to avoid.

Michael Ramsay, who became an outstandingly holy Archbishop of Canterbury despite what was regarded by his colleagues as a legendary social incompetence, Chris Brain, the leader of the Nine-O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield, who passed all the hoops of the Anglican selection procedure, would be an example of someone the new test might help to exclude, Dr Cunliffe said.

The new tests will be regarded as a mixed blessing by many, will be added to the present selection process. This de-

rives from that used by the army as

something open to everyone.

Their model of a congregation is of a self-conscious group

clearly distinguished from the rest of society; while this may be

the fate of the Church of England, it is one which the auth-

orities are anxious to avoid.

Michael Ramsay, who became an outstandingly holy Archbishop of Canterbury despite what was regarded by his colleagues as a legendary social incompetence, Chris Brain, the leader of the Nine-O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield, who passed all the hoops of the Anglican selection procedure, would be an example of someone the new test might help to exclude, Dr Cunliffe said.

The new tests will be regarded as a mixed blessing by many, will be added to the present selection process. This de-

rives from that used by the army as

something open to everyone.

Their model of a congregation is of a self-conscious group

clearly distinguished from the rest of society; while this may be

the fate of the Church of England, it is one which the auth-

orities are anxious to avoid.

Michael Ramsay, who became an outstandingly holy Archbishop of Canterbury despite what was regarded by his colleagues as a legendary social incompetence, Chris Brain, the leader of the Nine-O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield, who passed all the hoops of the Anglican selection procedure, would be an example of someone the new test might help to exclude, Dr Cunliffe said.

The new tests will be regarded as a mixed blessing by many, will be added to the present selection process. This de-

rives from that used by the army as

something open to everyone.

Their model of a congregation is of a self-conscious group

clearly distinguished from the rest of society; while this may be

the fate of the Church of England, it is one which the auth-

orities are anxious to avoid.

Michael Ramsay, who became an outstandingly holy Archbishop of Canterbury despite what was regarded by his colleagues as a legendary social incompetence, Chris Brain, the leader of the Nine-O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield, who passed all the hoops of the Anglican selection procedure, would be an example of someone the new test might help to exclude, Dr Cunliffe said.

The new tests will be regarded as a mixed blessing by many, will be added to the present selection process. This de-

rives from that used by the army as

something open to everyone.

Their model of a congregation is of a self-conscious group

clearly distinguished from the rest of society; while this may be

the fate of the Church of England, it is one which the auth-

orities are anxious to avoid.

Michael Ramsay, who became an outstandingly holy Archbishop of Canterbury despite what was regarded by his colleagues as a legendary social incompetence, Chris Brain, the leader of the Nine-O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield, who passed all the hoops of the Anglican selection procedure, would be an example of someone the new test might help to exclude, Dr Cunliffe said.

The new tests will be regarded as a mixed blessing by many, will be added to the present selection process. This de-

rives from that used by the army as

something open to everyone.

Their model of a congregation is of a self-conscious group

clearly distinguished from the rest of society; while this may be

the fate of the Church of England, it is one which the auth-

## news

# Major pledges EU money referendum

DONALD MACINTYRE AND COLIN BROWN

A promise that a Tory government would only enter a single currency following a referendum is now in prospect within weeks.

This emerged yesterday after John Major ordered the Cabinet to finally resolve a split over a referendum to defuse a new state of Euro-sceptic unrest.

Senior Conservative MPs last night predicted the Government would defer Euro backbench unrest with a commitment before Easter to a referendum on the single currency. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, however, has been told to "decide against any commitment to a referendum". Mr Major's disclosure came as the Government decided to avoid a full

dress vote on next week's White Paper on the Inter-Governmental Conference on the future of the European Union.

Instead business managers are resorting, for the first time since 1979, to ordering a light, one-line whip, to avoid the embarrassment of being defeated on a full turn-out.

The promise that a Tory government would only enter a single currency following a referendum is now in prospect within weeks.

| Public opinion on a single currency |   |       |           |              |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|-----------|--------------|
| Date                                | Pollster  | For % | Against % | Don't know % |
| June 1995                           | MORI  | 29    | 60        | 11           |
| Dec 1995                            | NOP   | 24    | 60        | 17           |
|                                     | Gallup asked a more detailed question in December 1995: |       |           |              |
|                                     | Keep open the option of joining at the start            | 30%   |           |              |
|                                     | Decide not to join but keep option of joining later     | 23%   |           |              |
|                                     | Reject a single currency                                | 31%   |           |              |
|                                     | Don't know  | 7%    |           |              |

has not yet won him over, but was said to be preparing further Cabinet pressure to overcome his opposition. Mr Clarke has the strong backing of Michael Heseltine.

Up to now Michael Portillo,

the Euro-sceptic Defence Secretary, has also been against a promise to hold a referendum, on the grounds that it might encourage the idea that a future Cabinet will decide in favour of a single currency. But he is

thought likely to bow to pressure to fall into line.

There are also ministerial expectations that Mr Clarke will not exercise a "veto", by threatening to resign. "Ken will respect Cabinet collective responsibility," a colleague said.

In a move which Tory MPs believed was stage-managed, Mr Major faced a call by Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs, for a referendum at Prime Minister's Questions.

Mr Major said: "I have made it clear to the House on previous occasions that I believe a referendum on joining a single currency could be a necessary

step. My position hasn't changed.

Recent opinion polls have shown a two-to-one majority against a single currency. The most recent, an NOP poll for the *Sunday Times* in December, showed 60 per cent opposed to monetary union, 24 per cent in favour, and 17 per cent undecided.

That could change, however, if the Cabinet, backed by Opposition leaders, recommended a single currency.

A senior Cabinet source said no decision had been reached as yet, but ministers believe Mr Major, who saw Mr Clarke privately on Wednesday, is trying to win over the Chancellor in

order to be able to give a clear commitment to a referendum.

The Chancellor, however, was sticking to the Government's old formula that a referendum would be considered only if and when the Government proposed joining a single currency.

"I am not a federalist. I believe in a unit of nation states. Let's decide whether ... to go in or not when we see what the animal looks like," he said.

Mr Clarke steadfastly declined to endorse Euro-sceptic demands for a referendum.

"Let's bring that judgment to the single currency if and when it happens," he said.

**Kenya visa rule**

Kenyans travelling to Britain from today will require visas. The Home Office said the number of asylum claims from Kenya had increased dramatically over the last six months and the new rule was needed to cut down on applications by bogus asylum seekers.

**Feud death fears**

Irish police investigating an internal feud in the Irish National Liberation Army fear for the safety of a man missing since Monday. James Haligan, 25, was last seen with fellow Belfast man John Fennell, 41, who was found battered to death on Tuesday in the seaside town of Bundoran, Co Donegal.

**Imagine...**

*Real Love*, the new Beatles single in the charts at No 1, has failed to make the BBC Radio One playlist. A spokesman said it had insufficient merit. Last week the veteran rock band Status Quo said they would sue the station for deliberately refusing to play their records.

**River tragedy**

A man died after a collision between two inflatable boats near the Royal Navy's Coulport depot on the Clyde. James Wilke, 35, from Greenock, was one of two men thrown into the water in the crash and rescued by launch. He was dead on arrival at the Vale of Leven Hospital in Alexandria.

**Missing girl plea**

The mother of 16-year-old Kait Wilson (above), the schoolgirl missing for six days, appealed for her return home. Kait, described as naive and sheltered, was last seen on Saturday at a bus-stop in the centre of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, after going to meet a friend and buy a bus pass with only £2 in her pocket.

**Part of the Union**

The Mothers' Union, whose motto is "helping those who find themselves in adversity", has set up a new branch in the women's annexe at Winchester Prison, Hampshire. Inmates requested the branch and have signed up for prayers, hymns, Bible reading classes and knitting baby clothes.

**Virgin job hope**

The wife of disgraced bank trader Nick Leeson has applied to Richard Branson's Virgin Airlines for a job as an air hostess. Lisa Leeson hopes the job will qualify her for staff discounts on flights to visit her husband, who was jailed in Singapore last year for his part in the multi-million-collapse of Barings Bank.

**Some like it cheap**

The pink and white bustier worn by screen legend Marilyn Monroe when she stepped off a bus in the classic comedy movie *Some Like It Hot* was sold for a lower than expected £2,645 in an auction at Bonham's in London. The auctioneers had predicted it would fetch a price of up to £6,000.

**THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD**

Austria ... Sch 40 Marks ... £5.00  
Belgium ... BE 400 Francs ... £4.500  
Denmark ... DKK 500 Kroner ... £62.50  
Cyrus ... CY 500 Lira ... 43 cents  
Denmark ... Dkr 100 Krone ... Nic 20  
Iceland ... ISK 1000 Króna ... Nic 25  
France ... F 100 Francs ... £6.500  
Germany ... DM 100 Deutsche Mark ... Nic 20  
Greece ... Dr 1000 Drachma ... £64.00  
Luxembourg ... L 1000 USA ... \$3.00

**OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS**

At mail, 13 weeks: Europe £11.00, rest of the world £16.00.  
2 for East and Australasia £20.70. To other, money and cheques payable to John Wiley International Media Services Ltd, 450 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA. Credit card telephone 01273 468268. Credit card telephone 01273 468268. Back issues of the Independent are available from: Metric Newsagents, telephone 0898 200455.

## Police chiefs to set up inquiry into stalking

JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

A national survey into stalking is to be carried out after police chiefs concluded yesterday that the present law against people who harass and intimidate their victims is inadequate. The move follows a series of high-profile court cases involving stalkers and amid growing concern that the existing legislation fails to protect women adequately.

Senior police officers decided yesterday to set up an inquiry into the issue and consider drawing up new anti-stalking laws. Victim support groups will be included in the survey, which is expected to include every police force in England and Wales.

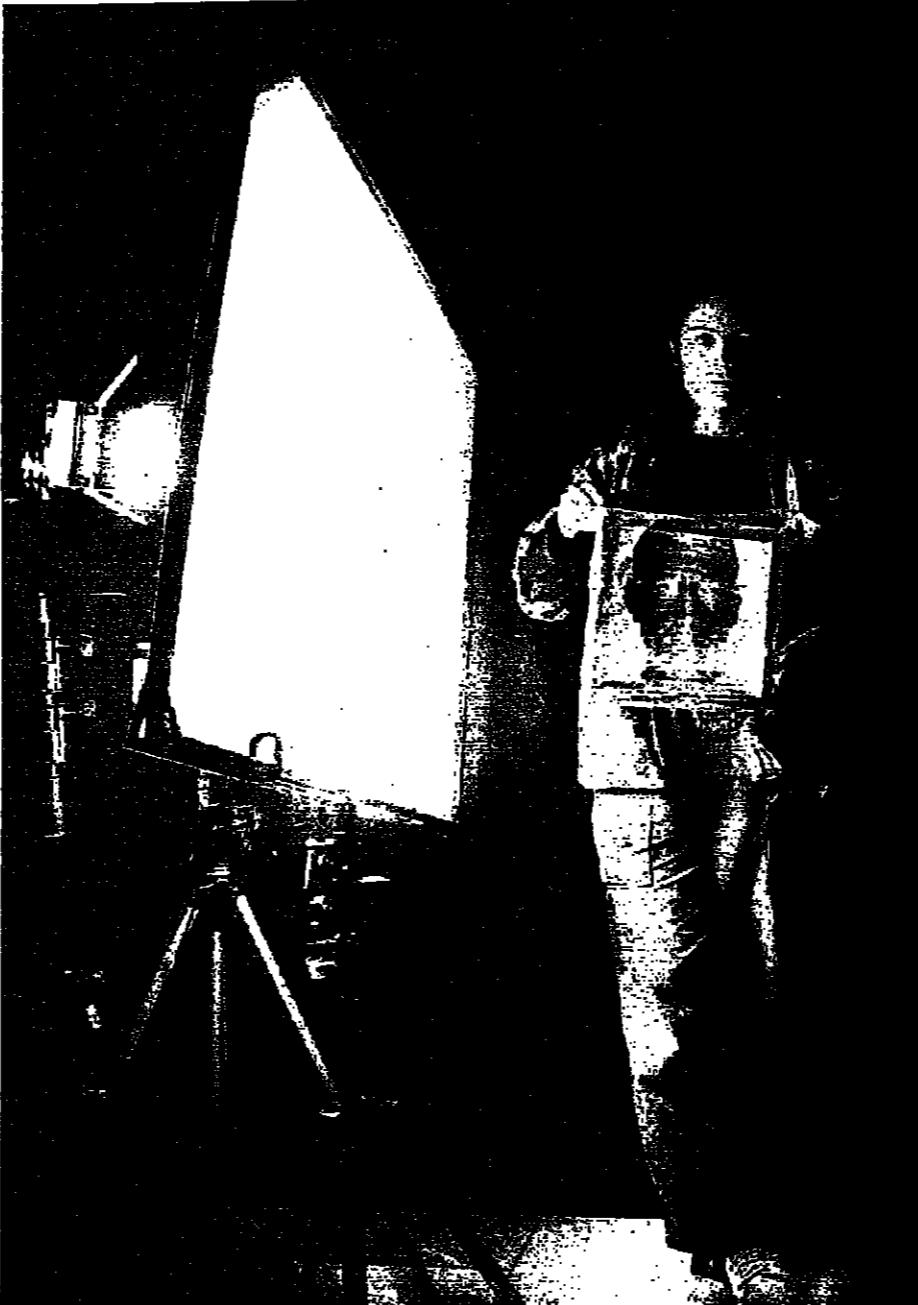
At present stalking is not a crime, so statistics are extremely hard to obtain. Victim support and women's groups believe it is far more common than previously thought.

If the police back calls for new anti-stalking laws Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is almost certain to comply. Labour is already urging the Government, which says the issue is under review, to take action and introduce new laws.

The frustration caused by the present law was revealed on Tuesday when a magistrate complained he was unable to convict a defendant who had stalked a 24-year-old woman for more than two years because the law had been broken.

Yesterday's decision for an inquiry was made at the Association of Chief Police Officers' crime committee. Assistant Chief Constable Maria Wallis of Sussex Police will head the stalking study. A spokesman said: "The Acpo crime committee is aware of concern about recent incidents."

Under existing law stalkers can only be prosecuted for actions such as threatening, abu-



## Shroud lifted on fake relic

Caroline Rye, a researcher at Dundee University, with an image that she says proves the Turin shroud was made with a huge pin-hole camera.

Using her own giant camera, she has produced similar images to that on the shroud, believed by many to carry an outline of the body of Christ.

The 14-ft x 4-ft linen shroud has been in Turin Cathedral for 400 years but the dispute over its authenticity dates back to the 14th century when the faking of religious relics was rife. Tests in 1988 indicated that the shroud dates from around 1350.

Today, Ms Rye intends to explain the mystery. She will stand inside her giant camera for four hours under bright lights. A tiny aperture leads to a second darkened chamber where a frame of fabric is mounted to receive her image.

"I believe that the Turin shroud was made by this method; our results are strikingly similar," said Ms Rye, 28. "I hope I won't offend anyone, I certainly don't intend to be sacrilegious."

He told the BBC: "I'm sure he doesn't want those people to be released but that is what actually happens now; 90 per cent of those people are released even if everybody knows they are still a risk to the public. I want to remedy that."

News analysis, page 15

At War over the Law, page 17

## Railtrack warned over safety

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Transport Correspondent

Railtrack was yesterday warned that severe weaknesses and poor management in its safety systems meant a greater risk of accidents, in a highly critical report by the Health and Safety Executive.

The HSE, which oversees safety on the railways, said that some of the weaknesses in Railtrack's systems "cause concern" and that in the future, they could make rail travel less safe than at present.

The report is the result of the most extensive inquiry ever carried out by the HSE into railway safety, involving 2,500 hours of work by inspectors, and after a series of leaks this summer into problems over Railtrack's relationship with its contractors.

While British Rail - from which Railtrack was split off in April 1994 - used to carry out most of its maintenance and repair work itself, Railtrack uses a contractor system and there

is growing concern that this has proved less safe than the old integrated BR system.

The report comes at an embarrassing time for Railtrack as it is due to be privatised in May. Only last week, the HSE took the unprecedented step of ordering Railtrack to improve the condition of the track outside Euston station in London, after a derailment last December highlighted a long-term problem over lack of maintenance on this section of track.

The report cites a series of incidents in which management failures have led to safety defects. In one case, a signal was missing after work on the track and in another, work was

undertaken outside an agreed protected site. More systematically, the report finds that while Railtrack is dependent on technical audits to monitor the performance of contractors, it found little evidence of technical auditing taking place.

Mr Coleman conceded that Railtrack had made many improvements and he took comfort from the fact that the company was addressing many problems found in the report. Safety standards on the railways had not deteriorated since the creation of Railtrack, he added.

"Rail remains by far the safest mode of land transport and there is nothing in this report that undermines that," he said. But he warned that Railtrack should respond "to great detail" to the report. "I don't want to see things slip any more."

Railtrack accepted the report's findings, saying: "(It) places an onus on us to make sure everyone works to our laid down safety procedures. This we will do."

## IRA threat 'not a definitive response'

DAVID MCKITTRICK

Ireland Correspondent

Recent hardline statements from the IRA on its readiness to wage another 25 years of war do not represent the organisation's definitive response to the setting of a date for all-party talks, according to republican sources.

But although that response remains to be delivered, recent comments mean that optimism about the prospects for

another ceasefire is at a low ebb in Belfast and Dublin.

The warnings that the IRA is ready for prolonged conflict, together with its now repeated assertions that there will be no decommissioning of weapons, does not bode well for early progress.

An IRA spokesman, quoted in the latest edition of *Republican News*, said: "We see the necessity for armed struggle because, given current political conditions, there is not the nec-

essary dynamic to move us all away from conflict and towards a lasting peace on the basis of a viable process."

An increasingly frequent theme of republican pronouncements has been more open criticism of the Irish Taoiseach, John Bruton, alongside more familiar allegations of British bad faith and duplicity.

Republicans envisaged the peace process as drawing momentum from a potentially powerful coalition of Irish na-

**"I'm tickled pink"**

# 7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING: BEST FILM

## 4 BAFTA AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING: BEST FILM

**WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE BEST FILM**

# BABE

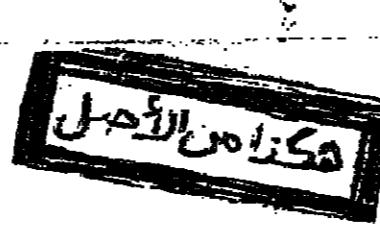
Now Showing

PLAZA CINEMAS

MGM TROCADERO

WHITELEY CINEMA

AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



## Fraud inquiry at prisons union

JOJO MOYES

Scoulard Yard is investigating allegations of fraud involving a "substantial sum" of money belonging to the Prison Officers' Association.

The Fraud Squad investigation, which began last March, was revealed yesterday as the POA held a special conference to discuss allegations of expenses irregularities and poor financial controls.

Scoulard Yard said inquiries were ongoing but that there had been no arrests at this stage.

A spokeswoman for the POA, which had hired auditors to carry out its own investigation, said the association had "not been aware" it was being investigated by the police. Its investigations are believed to centre on the size of travel and entertainment bills and the over-use of union credit cards. She said she could not reveal the exact amount of money involved, but that it was "not telephone numbers".

John Bartell, former chairman of the POA, confirmed yesterday that he had been sent a 50-page questionnaire by the union about expenses going back over the past three years.

Mr Bartell, who retired on health grounds last July, maintained that no allegations had been made against him and he was confident that the union's accounts had been properly audited during his chairmanship. He attacked the conference as a "kangaroo court" and said he feared delegates at the London conference would be dispensing "mob justice" without knowing the full facts.

Three hundred delegates representing the union's 29,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are attending the conference, which concludes today.

The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

# 'Blunders' in minutes before oil disaster

STEVE BOGGAN  
Chief Reporter

The pilot and captain of the *Sea Empress* failed to discuss a plan of action to take the tanker into Milford Haven before she ran aground, according to an interim report on the oil spill published yesterday.

In a finding which confirms an *Independent* report last month that the pilot may have had no time to formulate a plan as the tide fell, the report says no route was agreed between the two men, even though there were no language problems.

Within days of the 147,000-tonne tanker spilling 70,000 tonnes of oil off the Welsh coast, questions were being asked about the apparent failure to draw up a plan. The Department of Transport said last night that there was no legal requirement for one.

However, last month, Captain Mark Andrews, the harbour master, said pilots normally board in good time to discuss a plan of action with the master, in this case, the Russian captain, Eduard Bolgov.

He said: "It wouldn't be normal practice to put the pilot on so late. The difficulty can be when it takes time getting the pilot on board."

The report, by the DoT's Marine Accident Investigation Branch, shows that the ship, its crew and documentation were all in order before it ran aground on February 15. It also shows that the pilot did not board the vessel as late as port officials suggested - 7.53pm - or as early as claimed by the tanker's managers, Acomarit - 7.38pm. The MAIB said the unnamed pilot boarded at 7.40pm.

It does not say, however, whether this was early enough to beat a retreating tide that would have reached its lowest depth at 9.30pm. If that were missed, it would have been an

## Sleaze charge at Oxford's nursery for politicians

LOUISE JURY

It is renowned as the training ground of politicians, a forum whose despatch boxes mimic Westminster. But the Oxford Union is now echoing the House of Commons in another way - allegations of sleaze.

In a rare move, Jonathan Wolf, 21, this term's president of the debating society has been disqualified from office for misusing his position. Last night, two days before the end of term, when he should have been hosting Cabinet ministers Peter Lilley and William Waldegrave for his farewell debate, he was sidelined. His place in the president's chair was taken by Paul Kenward, who was due to take up the post next term.

The allegations may not be cash-for-questions, but claims that Mr Wolf a physics student at Corpus Christi college, campaigned for one of the rivals to succeed him - against Union rules - have caused fierce factional fighting.

A tribunal hearing of two former union presidents, one now a QC, and a former election returning officer, sat late into the night on Tuesday to listen to the accusations made by student Simon Baker against Mr Wolf under the Union constitution's notorious Rule 33, which governs election protocol. The details of the charges against him have not been revealed.



Jonathan Wolf: Disqualified as Oxford Union president

## Five beds, three hospitals in one week for woman

PETER VICTOR

A seriously ill grandmother was moved in and out of five beds at three hospitals in the space of a week, it emerged yesterday. Health campaigners last night described the case as "awful" and "distressing".

Doris Wiltshire, a 68-year-old widow, was even woken up at 3am to be transferred to another hospital only days after undergoing emergency surgery. But after a week of treatment, the pensioner has now been returned to the hospital where she was first admitted.

Mrs Wiltshire was taken to Southampton General Hospital with stomach pains at 11am on 26 February. Doctors found she was suffering from severe peritonitis - inflammation of part of the abdomen - and needed emergency surgery.

The operation took place at 9.30pm and showed Mrs Wiltshire had a perforated bowel. Her daughter, Mrs Tina Longhurst, 36, said a doctor rang her to say her mother might not survive. An upset Mrs Longhurst was then told her mother's intensive care bed was needed and she had to be moved 12 miles to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester at 1.30am.

Two days later, on 28 February, Mrs Wiltshire was transferred back to the intensive care unit at the general hospital in Southampton. She stayed there

for three days until she was woken at 3am to the Royal South Hants Hospital on 2 March. On 4 March, she was transferred back to Southampton General Hospital where her condition was "comfortable" yesterday.

Mrs Longhurst, of Totton, Hants, said: "I'm furious that mum was shunted around. I have nothing but praise for the doctors and nurses, but I can't believe a gravely ill woman can be disturbed in the night after emergency surgery and moved to a different hospital."

Marilyn Kay, a Southampton NHS Trust spokeswoman, said: "The trust has approved plans to expand our intensive care unit from 18 beds to 34, but it is expensive and we need to find the money for it. It was not an ideal situation, but we found this patient the care she needed and her treatment was successful."

Dr David Bennett, director of intensive care at St George's Hospital in London and a campaigner for more high dependency beds, condemned the case as "awful". He said: "Despite what the politicians say, this is an ongoing problem that will continue until current policy changes. There needs to be a doubling of the number of higher dependency beds."

An Age Concern spokesman said: "It is particularly distressing for an older person to be moved at such short notice and such upheaval could hinder their recovery."

## 'Hi-de-Hi' star dies of cancer

The actor Simon Cadell, star of the BBC comedy *Hi-de-Hi*, has died after a long struggle against cancer, his father-in-law said yesterday.

Cadell, 45, a father of two, discovered he had lymph cancer as he was recovering from a heart attack three years ago. David Croft, his father-in-law and *Hi-de-Hi* co-author, said that after a two-year struggle against the disease, Cadell died on Wednesday night. "A brilliant career tragically cut short."



Simon Cadell: Two year fight against lymph cancer

Chris Pyle, the BBC's head of entertainment group, said: "Simon Cadell was an extremely gifted actor, whose charm shone through every performance."

The actor's family were said to be "shattered" and Cadell's widow was too upset to speak to the media. Cadell was being treated for the cancer at the Harley Street Clinic in London.

As well as playing the upper-crust entertainment manager at Maplins holiday camp in *Hi-de-Hi*, Cadell's television career

included two series of *Enemy at the Door* for LWT, three series of *Life Without George* and the comedy *Blow on the Landscape*. He appeared at the National Theatre and played many leading West End roles, including *Travels With My Aunt*.

Cadell has finished a television film, *Circle of Deceit*, due to be shown at Easter. He had also recently worked with Richard E Grant on the film *In the Cool Light of Day*.

Obituary, page 14

Pasta notes ... how the two cooks compare in the helpings of words and food



DELIA

**Appearance**  
Housewife, reassuring, dowdy; Determined yet unpretentious. Reminiscent of your best friend's mum at school!

**Best known book**  
*Delia Smith's Winter Collection* - heavily discounted over Christmas, it became a runaway bestseller. Every dinner party has one

**Most unlikely recipe**  
Four-nut chocolate brownies? Delia is not one for trendy combinations TV style.

Dogged and slightly breathless; not a natural, hence the awkward pauses and the air of general discomfort.

**Prose style**  
Deeply practical, relentlessly optimistic, evokes joints sizzling in the oven, puddings steaming merrily on the stove, bread baking cheerfully, and so on.

**Favourite recipe**  
Roast duck with sour cherry sauce (the first thing she learned to cook while washing up in a restaurant) crepes suzette - blame her for bringing them back into fashion!

**Favourite words**  
"Absolutely", "superb", "pop", "practical", "pretty", "no fuss", "delightful".

**Least likely to say**  
Cranberries  
Least likely to say

God, let's just go to MacDonalds

**SOPHIE**  
Spiky feminist who spends a lot at the hairdresser; good line in Bet Lynch earnings, may have been a punk when about 15

**Eat Your Greens** just as Delia spends a lot of time on the nice BBC. Sophie's natural home is Channel 4 where she presented Eat Your Greens and Grow Your Greens and, most recently, Sophie's Meat Course

**Intense and enthusiastic**, hoovers up her offerings, happily tears carcasses from limb to limb and gets down to it with sweetbreads

**Emphasis on saving money**; businesslike; happy to warn you if a particular dish (artichokes, for example) will make you fat

**Swiss chard with olives au gratin**

**"Earthly", "substantial", "olive oil", "whizzy", "ticky", "up", "doddle"**

**But they're really good for you!**

**But I don't like carrots**



a few mushrooms are thrown in", Mr Griffiths observes. "As befits a younger royal", similar to the Duchess of York.

"Demonstrating her recipe for Hung Shao Pork, she says and then" 17 times in the few minutes she needs to show us how... She continues to mark time, like a piano teacher, quite as firmly in her books.

"Her recipes do not just begin, they tell you they are at the beginning: 'Begin by cutting the pumpkin in half'. She stays with you all the way, ticking off the instructions - 'First of all... When... Now... Next... Then... Next... Now... Until we arrive together at a 'Finally'

(from the recipe for Italian Stuffed Aubergines). No other cookery writer so resembles a guardian angel, beating its wings over you at every step."

By contrast, the more radical Sophie, daughter of the cookery writer, Jane Grigson, is roasted for her hurried style, "fuzzed" geography and "poor" knowledge of history.

"According to Sophie's *Meat Course*, what you do is 'throw them [chops] under the grill with nothing more than a light brushing of olive oil' or 'throw together yoghurt and mint sauce or, thanking God, realise that it tastes even better when

But it is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before serving'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzy') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

Somerset House to make room for the Inland Revenue, and it was offered to them as a base by the then prime minister, Lord Palmerston, who said they would be provided with accommodation "mainly for the advantage of the country." They were moved there from

Richard Bateman, chairman of the joint committee of the learned societies, said: "We've taken legal advice, and the Government has taken legal advice, and there are some differences between legal advisers, but we hope it can be resolved satisfactorily."

## Learned societies fight to keep historic homes

REBECCA FOWLER

The Geological Society, the Astronomical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society of Antiquaries and the Linnean Society, have been encircled at the colonnaded building in the heart of Piccadilly since 1874.

They were moved there from

decided individual departments should pay for their upkeep, rather than rely on a central funding system, no one would take responsibility for the societies. The sixth learned society, the Royal Academy, is protected by a 999-year lease, which means it can stay indefinitely.

Richard Bateman, chairman of the joint committee of the learned societies, said: "We've taken legal advice, and the Government has taken legal advice, and there are some differences between legal advisers, but we hope it can be resolved satisfactorily."

But it is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before serving'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzy') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

Three hundred delegates representing the union's 29,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are attending the conference, which concludes today.

The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

It is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before serving'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzy') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

Three hundred delegates representing the union's 29,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are attending the conference, which concludes today.

The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

It is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before serving'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzy') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

Three hundred delegates representing the union's 29,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are attending the conference, which concludes today.

The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

It is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before serving'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzy') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

Three hundred delegates representing the union's 29,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are attending the conference, which concludes today.

The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

It is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before serving'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzy') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

Three hundred delegates representing the union's 29,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are attending the conference, which concludes today.

The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

It is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before serving'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzy') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

Three hundred delegates representing the union's 29,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are attending the conference, which concludes today.

The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

It



de facto minimum wage  
to back  
rk' plan

flexible' jobs  
in as future  
e of labour

# Killer diseases return to haunt Europe

GLENDA COOPER

An "incredible" resurgence of contagious diseases that once seemed conquered are threatening Europe, says the World Health Organisation.

Diphtheria, cholera and tuberculosis are making a comeback following the breakdown of the former Soviet Union, when the fragile economies of the new states led to a neglect of mass immunisation and increased migration.

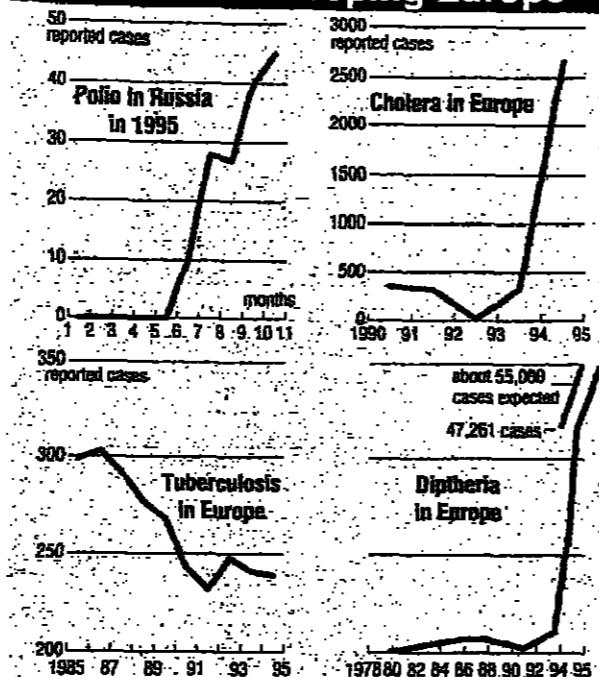
A diphtheria epidemic sweeping the independent states of the former Soviet Union has been declared an international health emergency by the WHO and Unicef. Europe now accounts for 80 per cent of diphtheria cases reported worldwide. In 1994 over 47,000 people in these countries contracted the disease – a 250 per cent increase over the previous year – and there were 55,000 cases in 1995.

Although the majority of diphtheria cases were in the former Soviet Union, it has spread. From 1993–94 around 20 cases were imported to other European nations – 10 in Germany, 10 in Poland, four in Finland and one in Norway.

Dr Sieghard Dittman, co-ordinator of the WHO's immunisation and vaccine programme, commented: "This is an incredible re-emergence of infectious diseases which we thought we had conquered."

The number of registered cholera cases in the WHO European region increased nine times from 1993 to 1994. In 1995 17 of the 50 member states reported at least one imported case of cholera. Tuberculosis

## Diseases sweeping Europe



strains resistant to drugs are increasing and the downward trend of reported cases of the disease in western Europe has levelled off. And malaria, a nearly forgotten disease in 1960s Europe, has exploded in recent years from 20,000 cases in 1992 to more than 100,000 last year.

In Britain there have been 25 cases of diphtheria imported between 1990 and 1994, and nearly 40 cases of imported cholera from 1993 to 1995. Tuberculosis has remained constant at around 5,500 to 6,000

cases reported per year.

Robert George, a director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, said: "We have to be absolutely aware to be ready. The UK is not under major threat at the moment but there is no cause for complacency."

In western Europe communicable diseases are responsible for 7 per cent of deaths and more than 60 per cent of all acute illnesses. Elsewhere in Europe those percentages are much higher.

The main causes of the resurgence in such diseases is found



Painful lesson: The loss of vaccinations in the former Soviet Union has led to the re-emergence of TB, cholera and diphtheria. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

in the collapse of the former Soviet Union. With the unrest and economic fragility that followed, vaccination programmes often suffered. Economic and social difficulties also led to breakdowns in sanitary infrastructures

and water supplies. Dr Jo Aszal, regional director of the WHO, said: "As late as 1994 all these countries which came out of the former Soviet Union lost 15 per cent of their gross national product. The national

economy crumbled and this had a disastrous effect on health care systems... It is a huge problem and will continue to grow if something serious isn't done about it."

The WHO is calling for a

comprehensive strategy to be implemented immediately across Europe. Mass immunisation should be strengthened, particularly in the newly independent states. Surveillance to recognise the early stages of

emerging and re-emerging diseases should also be improved by establishing a network of national laboratories, and aid should be supplied to help poorer countries improve basic hygiene and water quality.

## Six teenagers convicted of gang-rape

Six members of a notorious teenage street gang were given youth detention sentences totalling 49 years yesterday after being convicted of a gang-rape of two schoolgirls.

The Old Bailey heard that the two 15-year-old girls were taken by the gang to a house in Brixton, south London, where up to 14 teenage boys – some of whom were still at large – queued up to rape or attempt to rape them.

The horrific assault, in October 1994, has caused lasting torment to the two young victims, who were threatened, taunted and abused by other youngsters after reporting their ordeal to police. So fearful for their safety were they that they were kept in constant pager contact with officers handling their case.

Passing sentence, Judge Gerald Gordon said that the six defendants – all aged 15 or 16 and from the Brixton area – had shown "no remorse" for their actions. He added: "These two girls were subjected to repeated humiliation and degradation by you."

"They were not really treated like human beings. They were treated with callous disregard for their feelings, like sex objects to be used and cast aside."

The judge said that most, if not all, of the defendants were

## Vegetables do not protect foetus'

LIZ HUNT  
Health Editor

Government advice to women who want to get pregnant to boost their vitamin folate levels by eating more fresh vegetables and pulses to protect a developing foetus is misleading, according to new research.

Doctors in Northern Ireland say that only taking folic acid – the synthetic form of the vitamin – as a supplement, or in foods fortified with it, can produce blood levels of the vitamin which are likely to have a beneficial effect. Folate is essential for brain and spinal cord development in the foetus and there is a well-established link with folate deficiency and spina bifida and other neural tube defects (NTDs).

The new research shows that in women who increased their dietary intake, or who were given dietary advice only, blood concentrations of folate did not increase substantially. In women taking supplements or eating fortified foods, they did.

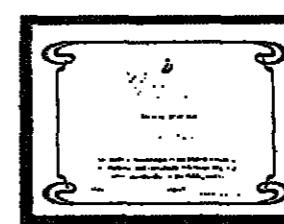
In tomorrow's issue of the *Lancet*, Dr Geraldine Cusick and colleagues from Ulster University, Coleraine, suggest that folic acid is better assimilated by the body than folate from foods such as broccoli, spinach, asparagus and Brussels sprouts.

The Folic Acid Campaign said women were advised to supplement their diets with 400mcg folic acid a day.

Claims Team  
of the  
Year 1995



The Polite Society  
Award for Telephone  
Service



Micropal  
Best Life Fund Manager  
of the Year 1995



OUR IMPROVED

CUSTOMER SERVICE

POLICY IS

OBVIOUSLY PAYING

DIVIDENDS

In 1995, Sun Alliance not only showed strong profit growth, we also won three major industry awards. It's no coincidence. Our financial performance reflects an impressive rise in the level of customer service we provide and the investment returns we have achieved for our clients. The results of which are plain to see both in the accolades above, and on our bottom line.

  
SUNALLIANCE

TOGETHER WE MAKE SOME ALLIANCE

CELEBRATE THE INSPIRATION OF THE YEAR'S MOST BELOVED FILM!

**5 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS**  
**5 BEST PICTURE**  
BEST ACTOR      BEST SCREENPLAY  
BEST DIRECTOR      BEST SCORE

**5 BAFTA NOMINATIONS**  
including BEST FILM (Not in the English language)  
BEST DIRECTOR • BEST ACTOR



**THE POSTMAN (IL POSTINO)**

NOW SHOWING STARTS TODAY AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

MGM PARIS STUDIO CITY

## news

# Council patrols 'key to future of policing'

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

More council-run patrols and private security guards are needed to act as the "eyes and ears" of the police, an independent inquiry has concluded.

Sweeping changes are needed to the police if the service is to cope with the growing crime rate and increasing public demand for officers on the beat, says the report published today by an influential com-

mittee that includes two chief constables.

It also calls on the Government to bring in legislation to regulate the booming private security industry.

The suggestions come a week after the Audit Commission published a report saying that there was an insatiable public demand for bobbies on the beat and that out of the average police force of 2,500 only 125 of them were on patrol at any one time.

One of the central recommendations of today's report is for local authorities to carry out more trials with their own uniformed patrols and security guards, and for a relaxation of the rank structure to allow more flexible policing. It cites the council-run security patrol force in Sedgefield, Co Durham, as a possible model.

It also advocates more radical experimentation and gives two Dutch examples. In one case city wardens, who carry radios but have no special powers, are used in 26 Dutch cities. In the second, some police forces in the Netherlands have appointed officers with the title "politiesurveillant", or police patroller, which is a rank below that of the ordinary constable.

It also suggests having part-time officers to work at times of high demand, such as when children leave school and at pub closing time, and greater use of volunteer policemen and

women known as Specials. However, the report, *The Role and Responsibilities of the Police*, stresses that it is against establishing a two-tier policing system in the United Kingdom.

The study, set up by the Police Foundation and the Policy Studies Institute, says that alternatives are needed because "it has become increasingly clear that the police can only have a relatively limited impact on aggregate crime statistics and, indeed, that the whole

criminal justice apparatus can only ever be one part in an overall strategy to reduce crime".

As part of the strategy the inquiry recommends statutory regulation of the private security industry in which all firms would be licensed by an independent authority, who would vet guards and investigate any complaints.

Last year the all-Party Commons Home Affairs Select Committee made a similar recommendation, but the Gov-

ernment has so far refused to act.

The inquiry says that police forces should become more flexible and more of a "learning organisation", which would include greater investment in new technology, sharing more information and giving more responsibility and power to lower-rank officers.

The inquiry's findings have been sent to the Home Secretary, all police forces and local authorities.

■ *The Role and Responsibilities of the Police*, £8, The Independent Committee of Inquiry, 1 Glyn St, London SE11 5RA.

**Prescription for change:** Profession asks Government to redefine its role amid growing concern over criminal investigations

## GPs seek to define new 'core contract'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

Family doctors' leaders want to define a new "core contract" with extra payments for some work which many GPs do already.

Their move comes as Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, is offering family doctors an expanded role - taking more work traditionally done in hospital into general practice.

Agreeing a definition of core GP services is "absolutely crucial" to progress towards the new GPs' contract which Mr Dorrell has implied is on offer. Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the British Medical Association's General Medical Services Committee said in an interview with the *Independent*.

He said that over the past decade, large amounts of extra work had "slid into" general practice. The dramatic expansion of nursing homes had placed heavy demands on GPs from high-dependency patients who used to be in long-stay beds, he said. They had brought in work "that is not general practice work".

GPs were being expected to monitor a growing range of treatments; from complex anti-coagulant treatments for patients to treatments for arthritis.



Seeking clarification: The role and responsibilities of family doctors must be tightly defined, according to Dr Ian Bogle. Photograph: Dillon Bryden

under consultant care and supervision. Drug treatments for infertility or cancer of the prostate and some other cancers had moved into general practice, initially to shift the drug costs from hospitals, but with the effect of adding work formerly done in hospitals to the family doctors' load. Other GPs had taken on drug and solvent abuse work.

Much of this was work "that we would say was specialist work, outside of core general practice".

The BMA could also mean a demand to split the contract into day and night services, with some GPs shedding their 24-hour responsibility for patients while others provide night cover only.

The BMA's stance points to a battle ahead between GPs and the Government, with ministers resisting doctors' moves to establish a restricted definition of their job, while at the same time GPs seek contracts from health authorities for what they define as "non-core" services.

Dr Bogle said that with morale amongst family doctors collapsing and fewer junior doctors opting for general practice because of the workload, it was "vital" that family doctors "clearly defined what the

current job was and what should be excluded".

Doctors' negotiators would define the core job and it would be up to individual family doctors whether they continued doing work beyond it or sought extra payment from health authorities.

GPs also want to drop some of the "crazy" aspects of health promotion in their present contract - simply counting the

number of smokers on their list, or screening over-75s annually - for which there was no evidence of an improvement in health care.

Defining the core was "an immensely difficult task", Dr Bogle conceded, and it would have to change over time.

A document defining the core is to be put to the BMA's family doctors committee later this month.

Cases at present with the CPS or recently considered include that of May Ormerod, aged 85, who allegedly starved to death after her GP stopped a food supplement at a nursing home in Preston. Carole Burwash, 53, died after allegedly being given a painkiller 10 times the dose prescribed for her, following a hysterectomy at Middlesex Hospital. A decision is still pending over Stephen Hext, a psychiatric patient who jumped from a multi-storey car park after treatment at the Edith Morgan Centre in Torbay.

A fourth case involved Ann Pritchard, who was admitted to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary after a drug overdose but died after she went into a diabetic coma, and a fifth was that of Alexandra McConnell, aged 9, who died in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, after contracting chicken pox, which she proved unable to resist because of steroid therapy for an eye infection.

In the last two cases, the CPS yesterday said there was insufficient evidence to proceed. A spokeswoman, however, denied there had been any change of policy or that it was "seeking out" cases for prosecution. Doctors, however, could not be given blanket immunity any more than any other group. "Families have the right to have cases properly investigated."

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

(Lifetime support for hardware and software)



Spot the difference when you buy from Gateway 2000.

And the difference is? We're America's largest direct PC manufacturer and one of the fastest-growing companies in Europe too.

From a modest beginning on a cattle farm in the Midwest of America in 1985, we're now a Fortune 500 company with an annual turnover of nearly \$4 billion and over 8,000 employees worldwide. Backed by the finest service and support, our award-winning, high quality PCs are all built to order. Our PS-75 Family PC® Special is the perfect introduction to the amazing world of multimedia and comes with software worth over £800, to help run your business, aid your children's education, or just for sheer entertainment. All this will be despatched to you within 48 hours of confirmation of your order. Plus every Gateway 2000 PC comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee, free telephone support for hardware and software for its system's lifetime and 1 year free maintenance at either your home or office.

Call us free for a spot of good old service and value and details of our full range of PCs.

800 392 0000

Gateway 2000, Clonsilla Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland.

Conditions apply, see website for details.

©1995 Gateway 2000 Europe. Clonsilla Model No. 100. "PS-75 Family PC" and "Gateway 2000" are trademarks or registered trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo, Pentium and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

Industry standard processor is a Pentium Processor 100MHz.

Actual memory may be less than 128MB.

\*\*Subject to availability.

### PS-75 FAMILY PC® SPECIAL

- Intel® 75MHz Pentium Processor
- 8MB RAM
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Quad-Speed CD-ROM
- 730MB 11ms IDE Hard Drive with PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 1MB
- Creative Labs Vibra Sound Card & Acer Lansing ACS40 Speakers
- 15" Vivitar® Colour Monitor
- Desktop Case
- Windows 95® 105 Key Keyboard & MS Mouse
- Microsoft® Windows 95
- MS Generations Software Bundle
- Games Bundle
- Superscape Virtual Reality Software
- MS Encarta
- 3 Years Limited Warranty

£1425 inc VAT & Delivery

**GATEWAY2000**

"You've got a friend in the business."

0800 392 0000

Gateway 2000, Clonsilla Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland.

Conditions apply, see website for details.

©1995 Gateway 2000 Europe. Clonsilla Model No. 100. "PS-75 Family PC" and "Gateway 2000" are trademarks or registered trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo, Pentium and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

Industry standard processor is a Pentium Processor 100MHz.

Actual memory may be less than 128MB.

\*\*Subject to availability.

The COOPERATIVE BANK

The COOPERATIVE BANK

VISA

Gold Card



## Gold Card, free for life.

- No annual fee, ever.
- Saves you up to £90 a year in fees.
- Pay off your existing balance at 12.6% APR variable.
- £3,000 minimum credit limit.
- No need to bank with us.

**0800 11 77 11**

Call free quoting reference no. 71630 or post the coupon.

You need to earn £20,000 or more a year and already have a credit card.

Post to: Goldcard Dept, Co-operative Bank plc, FREEPOST (M88192), Manchester M1 9AZ or phone 0800 11 77 11 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capitals.

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Looking for the LOWEST  
premia...  
ATLIS  
FREE

Beat Price  
Vehicle premia...  
E2  
Join today  
0800 0

The bank may decline any application. Credit facilities are subject to status and are available to patients. Customers must use the card at least 10 times per year. Various discounts are available on requests.

\*Typical example based on a starting balance of £3,000; the balance is repaid over a period of 34 months and payments are made 22 days after receiving each statement. Starting basic rate card at 12.6% APR would cost £416. Newcard base card at 23.4% APR would cost £714; Co-operative Bank cards at 12.6% APR would cost £416. All rates current as at 19.3.96.

**olicing'.**

which fire-fighters have been called on their skills to tackle all local emergencies. Buildings have been up-kept and repaired. The Fire and Emergency Services and Local Government Response Unit of the Independent Police Commission of London SE11 5RQ.

**Criminal investigations**  
**ectors facing**  
**lister trend'**  
**rosecutions**

# Schools' cash piles are out of balance

JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

Primary schools are holding cash balances of up to £100,000 while others are in the red, says a report from the Audit Commission published yesterday.

In secondary schools, the figures for reserves range from £250,000 to cash deficits.

The size of school balances caused a row last year when Conservative MPs said schools should be spending their reserves rather than protesting about spending cuts. The latest report, which gives the first official figures on school budgets since last year's cuts, shows that three in five schools are digging into their balances to pay running costs for the current financial year.

Most balances, says the report on 71 schools, are earmarked for specific projects but some schools are keeping thousands of pounds in the bank for no particular reason.

The commission says balances should be kept to a prudent minimum and held for clearly stated purposes.

The primary school with more than £100,000 in the bank has fewer than 100 pupils – but it was saving up for an unspecified project. However, one primary school had more than £60,000 which had not been earmarked and one secondary had £75,000, which it was not saving for a specific purpose.

The report shows that in one-third of schools, the amount of cash spent on each pupil went down last year. Pupil-teacher ratios are expected to rise this year to 23.2 in primary and 16.5 in secondary schools.

However, the amount schools of similar size have to spend on each pupil, from budgets delegated to them by local authorities, varies dramatically.

Some primary schools of between 100 and 200 pupils have about £2,750 per pupil compared with others which have only £1,250. Secondary school spending ranges from a high of £2,900 to around £1,800.

David Whitbread, education under-secretary at the Association of County Councils, said: "Schools with delegated budgets need to have balances to cope with contingencies. Some schools need larger balances if they are saving up to buy a new mini-bus or plan to redecorate the school every three years."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "They [schools] can't plan for the future when they have to draw money out of their balances for running costs. The impact is seen in rising class sizes and resource shortages."

Four out of five company directors believe that school leavers and graduates do not match up to basic literacy and numeracy standards, according to an Institute of Directors survey published yesterday.

## Sculptor's daughter loses legacy battle

The sculptor Henry Moore's daughter Mary yesterday lost the latest round in her battle to gain control of millions of pounds' worth of her father's work.

Mary Spencer Moore, 49, had appealed against a 1993 High Court ruling relating to the ownership of her father's enormous artistic output between 1977 and his death, aged 88, in 1986.

She and her mother helped the sculptor set up the charitable Henry Moore Foundation in 1976. In 1977, Moore became an employee of the foundation's trading arm, HMF Enterprises, because of his worry over tax liabilities. The foundation's studios and 70-acre garden at the sculptor's former home, Hog

lands, near Much Hadham in Hertfordshire, contain more than 600 priceless Moore sculptures. Mrs Danowski claimed that Moore's artist's copies of the 215 bronzes he produced during this period were the sculptor's property and became part of his estate after his death.

But Lord Justice Nourse, sitting in the Court of Appeal, upheld the 1993 judgment, ruling that the 1977 agreement stated plainly that HMF Enterprises had ownership of any future work, including artist's copies.

Mrs Danowski, who was not in court to hear the judgment, was ordered to pay the costs of the appeal, and was refused leave for a further appeal to the House of Lords.

### CAR INSURANCE

Looking for the  
**LOWEST**  
premium?



Exclusive Road Atlas  
**FREE**  
with every quote

Backed by one of the UK's leading insurers covering over 12 million homes

For Direct Insurance Marketing Ltd

A subsidiary of the National Insurance Company Corporation plc

Hanover House, London WC2E 7BR and the Channel Islands

PHONE  
**FREE**

**0500  
333  
600**

TO QUALIFY FOR  
YOUR FREE  
ROAD ATLAS  
PLEASE QUOTE  
REF 3345

LINES ARE OPEN

8am-8pm WEEKDAYS

9am-2pm SATURDAYS

DIAL DIRECT

**Beat the  
price rise.**  
Vehicle rescue from just  
**£28\***

JOIN TODAY CALL FREE  
**0800 000 111**

LINE OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8AM TO 7PM  
AND SUNDAY 9AM TO 7PM

REF C3106

**GREEN  
FLAG**  
National Breakdown

\*Plus a once only enrolment fee of £9.00 waived if you join by Direct Debit. Cars registered before 31/7/87 are subject to additional fee of £12.50. Current prices valid until 21/3/96.



Photograph: Paolo Cocco

## Plastic fantastic upstages Prada

TAMSIN BLANCHARD  
Fashion Editor

The late Franco Moschino would have given his approval to the talented team of young designers who are taking his name into the new millennium.

Presenting their new creation immediately after those of Prada may have given lesser designers cold sweats, but they chose instead to poke fun at the competition. When a trademark nylon Prada bag was worn to open the Moschino show, the familiar Prada logo read "Pasta" instead.

Unlike the rest of Milan, Moschino trades on its reputation for making fashion funny.

Miuccia Prada need not have been too worried though. Her collection of luxury classics was presented with customary panache and she had only to look around the audience to know that she still has her finger on the pulse.

Prada's spring/summer grannys' jackets and skirt suits, and loose basket-weave print nylon trousers were being worn in abundance. The only problem is that the clothes have such a distinctive trademark they become instantly dated.

But this mass Prada hysteria is a sign of the label's far-reaching influence. It will be seen – not only worn head to foot by those in the know – but also on the catwalks of other designers, from London to New York, where the label's second, younger line, Miu Miu, will be shown at the end of the month.

After seeing yesterday's collection for autumn/winter 1996, the uninitiated would be forgiven for wondering what all the fuss is about. For here were simple, sensible clothes that might not look so special if you did not know the label inside them.

The use of late Sixties/early Seventies bathroom tile prints in brown and orange has continued into the collection for next winter, as have straight-legged trousers and thick matt nylon nurses' dresses. There were also plain cashmere V-neck jumpers that, unlike the prints, will be wardrobe staples season after season.



Claudia Schiffer models for Fendi. Photograph: Paolo Cocco

Big on safety. ABS brakes. Driver's airbag.

Saab Safeseat. Side impact protection.

Power Steering. A big engine.

Twin-cam 16 valve, 2.0 litre, 130 bhp.

Big on boot space. Capacity 46.3 cu ft.

3 year/60000 mile warranty.

Extended service intervals.

A.B.I. Advisory Group 10 insurance rating.



**SAAB**  
beyond the  
conventional

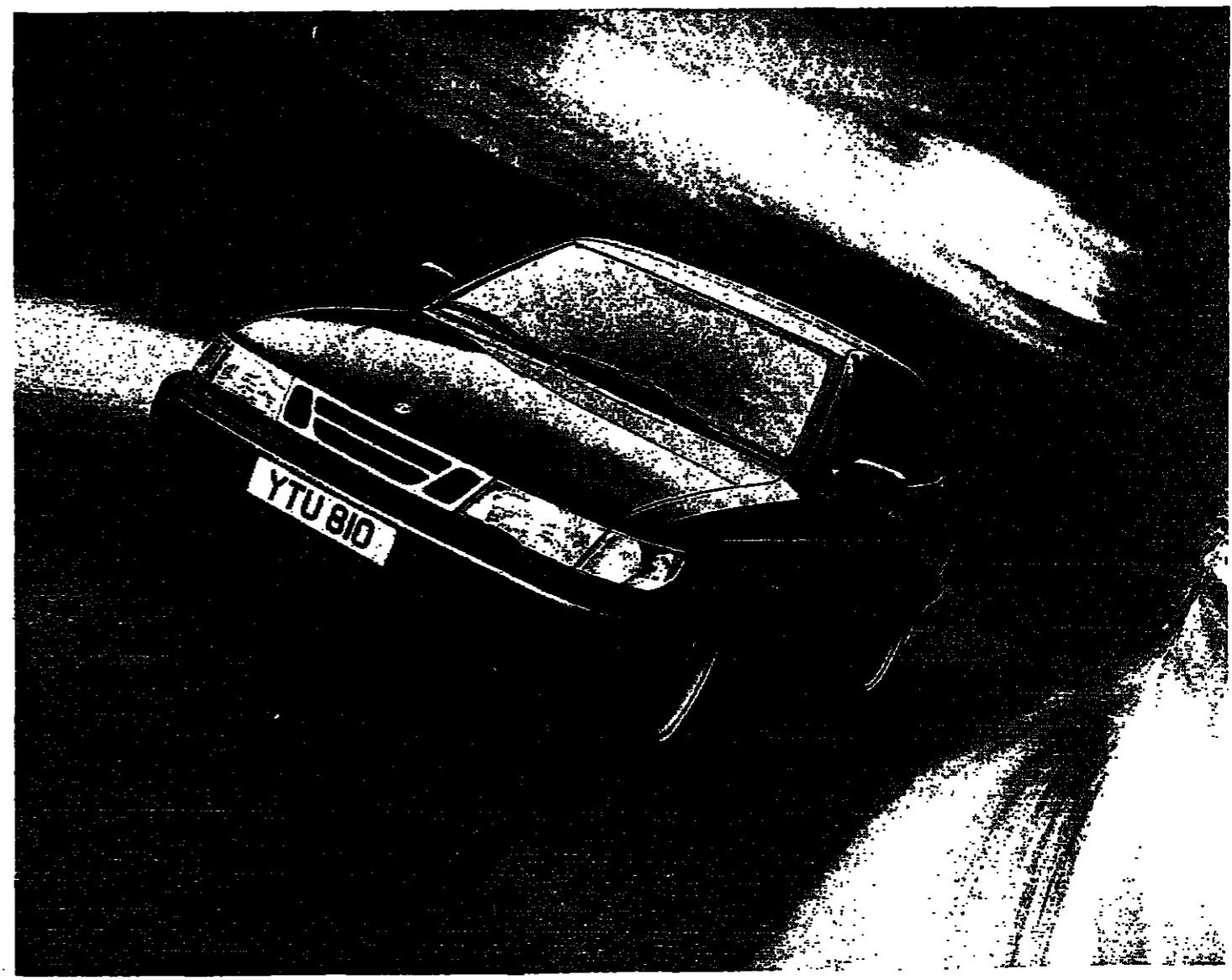
**SAAB 900**  
**£14,995**

The price quoted is the maximum price you'll pay and is correct at the time of going to press.

It includes delivery, road tax and plates.

CALL 0800 626 556 FOR A TEST DRIVE.

**Big benefits. Compact price. No small print.**



To Saab Information Centre, Freepost: WC4524, London WC2E 7BR. Please send further information on the: 900 □ 9000 CD (Saloon) □ 9000 CS (Sdr) □

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ REF: 256

Present car make & model \_\_\_\_\_ Year of reg. \_\_\_\_\_ Age if under 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Attach your business card or phone 0800 626556 or fax 0171 240 6033.



d,  
fe.

II 77 II

SK

F II

Most even  
evenly sh  
light f  
of 20;  
erally crop  
No  
this be  
ly on 1  
by C  
match  
the co  
er dif  
The  
Leed  
Repu  
John  
one t  
batw

T

n

Der  
has

Like I  
left-h  
pearl  
style.  
Brian  
panac  
group  
grace  
swerv  
vated  
achie  
equal  
the o  
So  
to fin  
and t  
tive k  
Thor  
best l  
cious  
er th  
hims  
supe  
Indic  
gate  
est e  
an E

U  
now  
not c  
few  
happ  
then  
not  
tow  
fina  
wer  
wrei  
H  
cash  
fer  
form  
reas

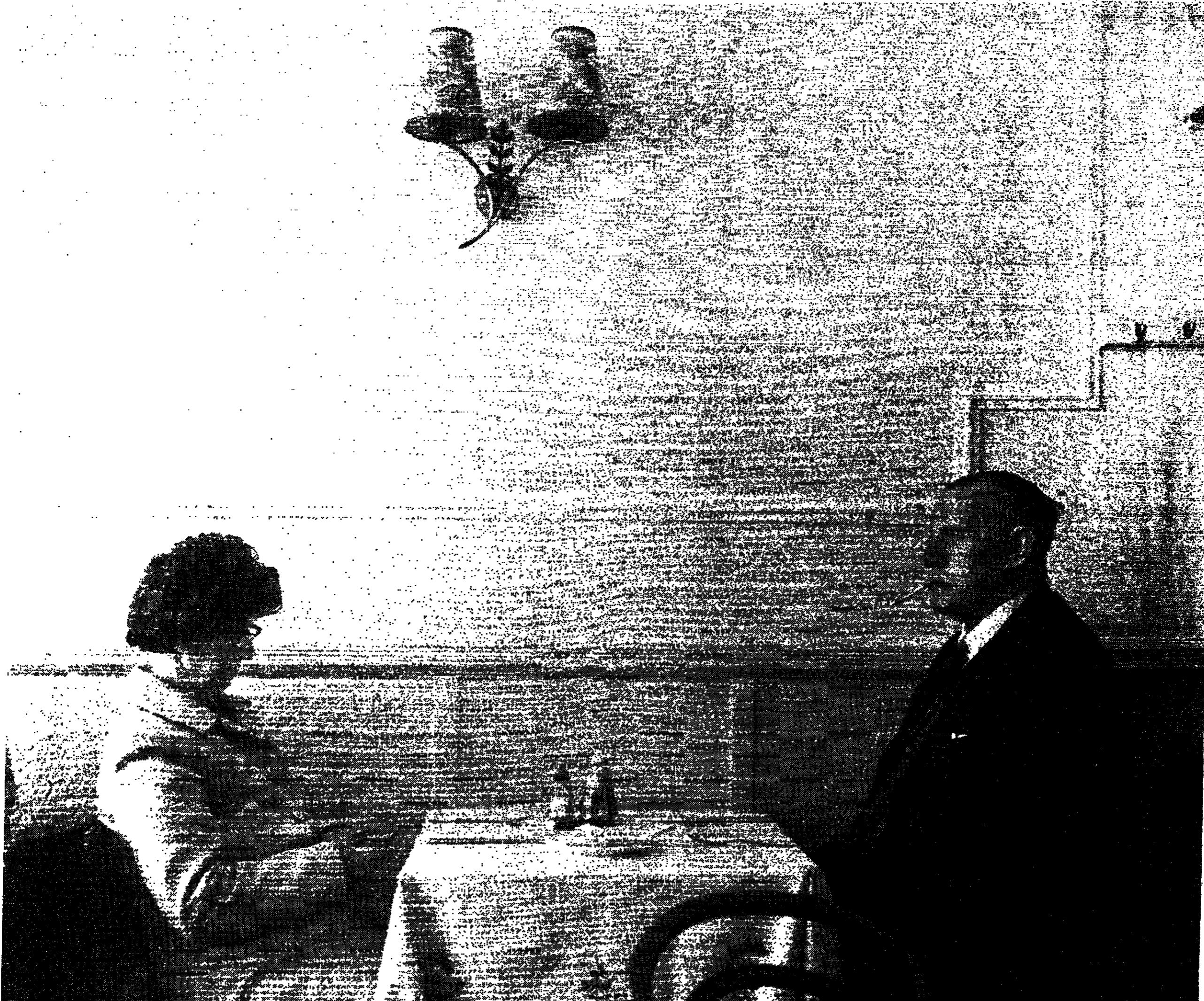
We  
RUI

The  
over  
gives  
busi  
We  
fin.

gre  
su  
po  
na  
thi  
wi  
ga  
Sa  
be  
in  
th  
K  
ve  
S  
B  
T  
ta  
A

th  
re  
te  
r  
pi  
si  
it  
a  
so  
ri  
p  
a  
o  
b  
ri  
p  
a

P



## NO INTEREST FOR 2 YEARS.

This is what Fiat are offering when you buy a new Fiat Punto. You can now own the 1995 Car of the Year by spreading the cost over 24 months completely interest free. Considered to be one of the safest in its class, the Punto comes with side impact bars, fire prevention system and seat belt pre-tensioners as standard. Each one also has an engine immobiliser and four speaker radio/cassette, yet prices start at only £7441 on the road. For more stimulation call the Fiat Information Service on 0800 71 7000.

### 0% FINANCE OVER 2 YEARS

Punto 555 3 door finance example.

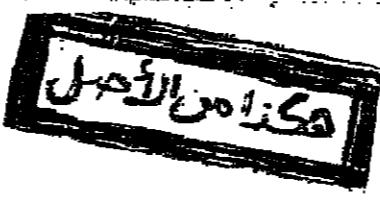
| Cash Price      | £7440.98 on the road* | APR                    | 0%       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Deposit 50%     | £3720.26              | 24 monthly payments of | £155.03  |
| Amount Financed | £3720.72              | Total Payable          | £7440.98 |

DRIVEN BY PASSION FIAT



Spirito di Punto

\*CAR SHOWN PUNTO 555 3 DOOR AT £7440.98 ON THE ROAD. PRICE INCLUDES £512 FOR DELIVERY TO DEFECT, NUMBER PLATES, VAT AND 6 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE, AND IS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 29.2.96. 0% FINANCE OFFER CLOSES 31.5.96. CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 AND OVER SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST FROM FIAT MOTOR FINANCE 3 PRINCESS WAY, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 1NP. FIAT MOTOR FINANCE IS A PART OF THE LOMBARD GROUP.



Dole se  
freeze  
Forbes  
New Y

lives Cold  
for Red sp

# international



Barbara Cannon, mother of one of the jailed servicemen, outside the courthouse in Okinawa. Photograph: Reuter

## Dole set to freeze out Forbes in New York

DAVID USBORNE  
New York

Under sleet and snow, New York Republicans voted yesterday in a primary that seemed set to hand another win to Senator Bob Dole and put him all but beyond the reach of his remaining rivals for his party's presidential nomination.

The only suspense was provided by Steve Forbes, who appeared at the last moment at least to be narrowing Mr Dole's lead. A victory by Mr Forbes would be a stunning upset.

New York is the biggest prize in the primary process so far, with 93 delegates on offer for the party's nominating convention in August. If Mr Dole snatches them, his lead in numbers of delegates over Mr Forbes and his only other serious rival, Pat Buchanan, would make him well-nigh invincible.

"I think we will be the state that puts Senator Dole over the top," the Governor of New York, George Pataki, said. Only California and Texas will send more delegates to the convention in San Diego.

Of the three candidates, only Mr Forbes was still in the Empire State yesterday, apparently glimpsing the miracle of an eleventh-hour breakthrough. A final daily tracking poll for the *New York Post* showed Mr Dole's lead cut from 48.4 per cent to 46 per cent, while Mr Forbes had jumped from 18.7 per cent to 24.2 per cent.

Mr Buchanan appeared to be losing ground in the state and registered only 13.6 per cent in the *New York Post* poll.

The race has been overshadowed by controversy created by the state party's attempts to preserve rules that made it almost impossible for any candidate other than Mr Dole to make on to the ballot sheets.

With help from the courts, Mr Forbes was able to qualify in all 31 of the state's congressional districts, while Mr Buchanan

### THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 96

was standing in only 23. State-wide, therefore, the primary amounted to a first head-to-head Dole-Forbes contest.

So confident was Mr Dole that he had left yesterday to campaign in Florida, which votes on Tuesday. In Miami, the senator joked: "I feel good about New York, except it snowed up there. If it snows here, we're in trouble."

Mr Forbes received a boost on Wednesday, when he was endorsed by Jack Kemp, a former pro-football star and Bush cabinet member. But Mr Kemp, whose main interest in Mr Forbes is his advocacy of a flat tax, may have jumped in too late. "It's like grabbing the helm of the *Titanic* after it's hit the ice," scoffed William Powers, the state party chairman.

Mr Forbes also poured money into the state in the closing hours of the campaign, with intensive advertising, including a 30-minute block of prime-time on a New York City television station. Chastising Mr Dole for refusing to take part in recent television debates, Mr Forbes offered to pay for his plane fare to return to New York to debate with him on the half-hour show.

The magazine magnate was meanwhile due to stage a "victory party" in a Manhattan hotel yesterday evening.

The event, aides said, would mark his success in getting on the ballot across the state, even if the day's voting did not give him victory.

Mr Buchanan continued to defy party calls on him to retire from the race and help restore party unity. He promised supporters that he would "fight until Hell freezes over – and then fight on the ice".

Leading article, page 16

## FBI relives Cold War in hunt for Red spies

Los Angeles — The FBI has wrapped up an advertising campaign that asked Vietnamese-Americans to help round up suspected Communist spies, writes Tim Cornwell.

Ads appearing last month in two of the largest Vietnamese-language newspapers in the country, and picked up by radio and television, sought help against the "proliferation of Vietnamese Communist intelligence". The FBI is now following up hundreds of calls received in response.

Cheaper car insurance  
Call Admiral now  
**0800 600 800**

**ADMIRAL**

The US and Vietnam opened full diplomatic relations last year, but the agency says there has lately been a surge in espionage. In a curious throwback to the Vietnam War era, the newspaper notices asked new immigrants to help the US government "destroy the activities, threat, and intimidation... of the underground Communist spies." Economic espionage is the main target.

The Vietnamese-American community, estimated at about 1 million, has seen sharp splits between ardent anti-Communists who denounce Hanoi and those who welcome closer ties with their home country.

The San Francisco FBI spokesman, George Grotz, said the campaign was intended to encourage disgruntled Vietnamese spies to "come in from the cold". Mr Grotz said known Vietnamese spies had tried to obtain security clearances and access to hi-tech companies based in California.

## Marines jailed for rape that strained US links to Japan

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
Tokyo

Three American servicemen were jailed yesterday for the gang-rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl, at the end of a case which has outraged Japan and undermined security ties between Tokyo and Washington.

Navy Seaman Marcus Gill, 23, and Marine Private Rodriguez Harp, 21, were sentenced to seven years for the abduction and rape of the schoolgirl in the southern island of Okinawa on 4 September last year. A third serviceman, Marine Private Kendrick Leder, 20, received a lighter sentence of six and a half years on the grounds that although he tried to rape the girl he was incapable of intercourse.

The leader of the three-judge panel, Shunei Nagamine, described the crime as "vicious".

The victim was walking home from a shopping expedition in northern Okinawa when she was bundled into a hired car by the three men who drove her to a

nearby beach and took turns raping her. Prosecutors had called for 10-year terms for the men, but the sentences were still stiff by the standards of Japan, where rapists typically go down for three or four years.

The crime unleashed emotions in Okinawa. Three months before the rape, Okinawans had marked the 50th anniversary of the battle which killed 150,000 civilians in the dying days of the Second World War. For 27 years after, the island was part of the United States. Even after it reverted to Japan in 1972, the island continued to bear the overwhelming burden of American forces. Okinawa amounts to less than 1 per cent of Japan's total area, but houses up to 29,000 of the 47,000 US troops stationed in the country.

The outrage was compounded when the US authorities refused to hand the suspects over to the Japanese police, under a bilateral agreement which allows servicemen to remain in military custody until indicted.

For several weeks there were demonstrations, culminating in a rally in October at which 85,000 Okinawans called for the withdrawal of the US bases. The pressure increased when the Socialist governor of Okinawa, Masahide Ota, refused to sign documents necessary for the leasing of the land occupied by the US military.

The affair has revived calls for the abandonment of the US-Japan Security Treaty, regarded by Washington as its most important military alliance. Last November the US Defense Secretary, William Perry, was forced to make a special visit to calm the waters. The subject will be high on the agenda when the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, entertains President Bill Clinton at a summit in Tokyo next month. A joint committee has been set up to consider ways of reducing Okinawa's burden.

For the time being, both sides insist the number of US troops in Japan will not be reduced, but units may be relocated on the Japanese mainland. Last month, a US general conceded that plans were being considered to relocate American forces in the Pacific to Darwin, northern Australia.

Even after yesterday's sentencing, the affair is not over. American lawyers representing the three men said they would appeal. Throughout the trial there have been claims of forced confessions and legal irregularities.

The system of interrogations, for 23 days in this particular case, without the assistance of an attorney is a rotten system, which must change," said Michael Griffith, an American attorney.

An application to transfer the hearing elsewhere, on the grounds that inflamed public opinion made a fair trial in Okinawa impossible, was earlier rejected by the Supreme Court. An American Embassy spokesman declined to comment on the trial.

# Sky unleashes the greatest ever 24 hours of sport

## champion v challenger

Support Frank Bruno, as he defends his WBC World heavyweight title against Mike Tyson. Watch the whole event, live and exclusive, from 01.00am on 17th March.

If you are a Sky subscriber check your March Sky TV guide for full terms and conditions and details on how you can book this special pay per view event or ring 0990 66 33 11 for further information. Alternatively contact your local cable operator.

Bugner v Welch

starts 22.00  
16th March

**SKY SPORTS 2**

Naseem v Lawal

starts 23.15  
16th March

**SKY SPORTS 2**

Cricket World Cup

final starts 09.00  
17th March

**SKY SPORTS**

Rangers v Celtic

kicks off 13.15  
17th March

**SKY SPORTS 2**

to get connected to Sky see your satellite retailer or contact your local cable operator

<http://www.sky.co.uk>

don't miss this world-beating weekend on 16-17 March

**SKY**  
NO TURNING BACK

All the events listed above, except Bruno v Tyson, are automatically available to Sky Sports subscribers.



rgatory

## international

# Rebels push thorn further into Yeltsin's side

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin's government was plunged into crisis yesterday after Chechen rebels spent a second day trying to grab back control of the Chechen capital, Grozny, in an effort to inflict maximum embarrassment on the Kremlin.

As his loops struggled to rebuff Chechen attacks across the city, Mr Yeltsin provided Russians with further reason to suspect that he has no workable solution to the conflict - despite his promise to find one

before the presidential election in three months' time.

The President, looking solemn, emerged from a meeting of his policy-making Security Council in Moscow with nothing more than a vague assurance that he was working on the framework of a blueprint for bringing "peace through stabilisation". He promised to unveil full details to the "entire world" by the month's end, a delay that seems certain to disappoint many Russians who have long been embittered by the loss of life in the 15-month war, and angered by the failure of the

Kremlin's hawks to fulfil an earlier boast that they could bring it to a quick end.

His indecisiveness and apparent helplessness at the hands of what most regard as lawless terrorists will only do more damage to Mr Yeltsin's chances of returning to office.

The President's strongest political rival, the Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, who is well ahead in the polls, was quick to rub salt into the wound, warning that the war could become a "second Afghanistan" and pouring scorn on Mr Yeltsin for being unable to set-

tle the conflict by peaceful means, always relying on force.

To widespread amazement, the President seemed out of touch with the unfolding drama in Chechnya yesterday, prompting suspicions that his inner circle is withholding information from him - an allegation that also arose last month during Russia's disastrous bombardment of Pervomayskoye. Mr Yeltsin told reporters outside his Security Council meeting that the rebels had been driven out of Grozny when this was in fact far from the case.

Eye-witnesses said that the

Chechen forces had penetrated deep into the already wrecked city, seizing control of a police station and a hospital and taking prisoner 84 Russian construction workers. By yesterday evening, the rebels controlled a third of the city.

The Russian forces appear to have been caught out by the offensive which began at dawn on Wednesday, after some 300 rebels rolled in on a suburban train which they had commandeered. Yesterday Russian Interior Ministry police (Omon) were reportedly driven back into their hide-outs because

they began to run out of ammunition around 11am. An official from the Moscow-backed Chechen government told the Interfax news agency that at 2pm - three hours after the fighting began - the Russian army was still not in action.

The Chechens - between 500 and 1,000, according to Russian estimates - are rumoured to be led by Shamil Basayev, the Chechen commander who led last year's mass hostage-taking in the southern Russian town of Beslan. An episode that was widely seen as a humiliation for Mr Yeltsin,

Last night there were reports that the Chechens had successfully sabotaged the city's heating plant, three water pumping stations, and an oil pipeline, and had installed snipers only 100 yards from the headquarters of the Moscow-installed Chechen government. Water supplies were cut, and intense fighting was said to have begun around Grozny - Russian reinforcements were streaming in yesterday as virtually every Russian position was under fire - the Chechens are equally unlikely to cease to be a thorn in the Kremlin's side as the election approaches.

## Austria budget deficit unites parties

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Central Europe Correspondent

After a row lasting more than six months - and one election later - Austria's two main parties have agreed to make up yesterday with the announcement that for the fourth time in succession, they would renew their left-right coalition government.

A relieved Franz Vranitzky, who remains chancellor, hailed the agreement between his Social Democrats (SPÖ) and the conservative People's Party (ÖVP) as triumph for common sense and compromise. Wolfgang Schüssel, the ÖVP leader, an deputy chancellor, described it as "good news for Austria".

At the centre of the new agreement is a tough package of austere measures designed to cut 10 billion schillings (£6.5bn) from the country's spiralling budget deficit over the next two years.

In a bid to show they mean business, the coalition partners said they planned to cut two minister posts and reduce the number of state secretaries.

It was disagreement over how to rescue the budget deficit that caused the break-up last autumn of the last SPÖ-ÖVP coalition after less than one year in office. Although the SPÖ emerged strengthened from the December election that followed, its new cost-cutting economic policy bears the firm imprint of the ÖVP, which even flirted with the idea of throwing its lot in with Jörg Haider's extreme-right Freedom Party to ensure its own way.

As part of the austerity package, designed to bring Austria into line with the Maastricht criteria for joining the single European currency, 10,000 civil service posts are to be axed by the end of next year, generous maternity leave payments are to be slashed and students up to the age of 27 will no longer be able to travel for free on public transport.

In a country that has got used to an astonishing degree of welfare cushioning, the prospect of the cuts has already provoked protests from trade unions, pensioners and students, thousands of whom this week teamed up with their university professors in declaring an indefinite strike.

Many Austrians, however, have recognised that, with the opening of the Iron Curtain in 1989 and entry into the European Union last year, the days of job for life and early retirement were destined to come to an end. "We have no option but blood, sweat and tears," said Andras Rohr, political editor of the daily *Die Presse*.

Franz Vranitzky: Coalition triumph for common sense

## Turkey's top author sentenced for article on Kurds

Penning in: Mr Kemal (left), best known for his book *Memed, my hawk*, in court yesterday with his publisher, Erdal Oz

Photograph: AP

HUGH POPE  
Istanbul

Like a wicked godmother cursing the newborn centre-right government that took power in Turkey yesterday, Istanbul's State Security Court handed down a 20-month jail sentence on Turkey's best-known writer, Yashar Kemal.

The three judges decided there was an incitement to racial hatred in his article "Black Clouds over Turkey", in which he condemned Turkish oppression of the Kurds. Mr Kemal's passionate article was published in a book called *Freedom of Expression in Turkey*, subsequently banned.

"I am being judged because I want the war to stop. I will fight until death for the end of this war [between the Turkish army and Kurdish guerrillas]," Mr Kemal said. "More than three and a half million people have been driven from their homes and are now searching rubbish dumps for their food."

The sentence against Mr Kemal and the fine on his co-defendant and publisher, Erdal Oz, who was ordered to pay the equivalent of £38, were suspended as long as they did not repeat their "crime" within five years. Lawyers said both would appeal against the sentence but this was not the attitude taken by Mr Kemal, 72. As he left the courtroom, he shouted: "Jail me if you like. It is not you who sentence me. I condemn you."

The judges may have considered they were being lenient, deferring to Mr Kemal's international prestige, his 30

novels translated into many languages and sales of 5 million books in Turkey alone. He is Kurdish and writes in Turkish, seeing himself as a mix of the two.

Mesut Yilmaz, the new Prime Minister, who sought Mr Kemal's advice before the December election, told *Milliyet* newspaper his government would think about allowing Kurdish television and Kurdish education. Even the word "Kurd" was taboo less than a decade ago and a change in Turkish attitudes was shown by Mr Kemal's prosecutor yesterday, who acknowledged the Kurds "as a race but not as a nation". But when he said he believed the article was not criminal, that the book should be unbanned and Mr Kemal and Mr Oz acquitted, the judges would not relent.

The sentence is bound to stain the reputation of the new coalition government. Kurdish nationalists will also see little future hope in an unsurprising programme read out to parliament yesterday. Mr Yilmaz spoke in clichés of "separating the terrorists from the people". And the army is building its troop strength in the mainly Kurdish south-east for the traditional spring offensive.

The new Cabinet is packed with technocrats to run the economy but also includes former police chief associated with a mixed policy of military repression and economic promises. These helped depopulate the Kurdish rural south-east and restored order in towns but have failed to end the 11-year guerrilla insurgency.

**Personal Computer World**

Power to palm

TRIPLE DISK MEGA PACK

We've got everything covered. Even the cover.

As the world of computing grows, we grow with it. The April issue of Personal Computer World - all 648 pages of it - is packed with expert advice and information on the latest hardware, software and current issues. And as you'd expect from Personal Computer World - there's coverage of serious fun, you'll find triple disk April issue out now on the news-stands.

This first ever triple disk issue

Everything you need under one cover

[www.vnu.co.uk/hc/pew/](http://www.vnu.co.uk/hc/pew/)

Personal Computer World

Up to 70% DISCOUNT ON REPLACEMENT PARTS

A permanent saving - not a one-off offer - on new parts

EURO CAR PARTS CALL A FULLY TRAINED PARTS PERSONNEL TO GIVE EXPERT ADVICE ON:

FORD ROAD, WENBLEY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WENBLEY, MIDDLESEX HA9 0EP

OPEN 7 DAYS SUNDAYS 8.00AM-4.00PM

A WEEK

MAIL ORDER IMMEDIATE 24 HOUR NATIONWIDE DISPATCH

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000

0181 956 5000



# At war over the law

An uncompromising Home Secretary and a blunt-speaking Lord Chief Justice are at loggerheads. Heather Mills explains why

**T**here is now open warfare between the judges and the Government over the criminal justice system.

The judiciary, once signed-up members of the Establishment, have accused John Major's government of introducing a flood of hasty, ill-conceived and contradictory legislation. Ministers are in the dock, charged with subjecting the law to "arbitrary change and the vagaries of fashion" and worse, impeding justice. If that is not enough, the judges have told the ministers flatly: their proposals will not work.

Judges stand accused by ministers of giving too many lenient sentences, dragging their so-called fight against crime and interfering in policy.

These are uncharted and dangerous waters. Never before in recent history have judges so damagingly and publicly voiced their views outside the courtroom - forcing ministers on to the defensive.

So why are they doing it now? The reasons are threefold. First, they are now able to speak out publicly, since rules maintaining their silence were relaxed in 1987. Second, they are headed by a Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, who is prepared to speak out so bluntly on their behalf. (Lord Lane, his predecessor, was known to have seethed silently.) Third, and fundamentally, judges - at least the "new" intake of younger, more liberal-minded judges - guard their independence

from government jealously. And it is the constant attachment of yet more fetters on their discretion to administer justice that has most upset them.

What has brought matters to a head are the latest proposals by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to impose minimum sentences for repeat violence and sex offenders, and drugs dealers. At one time politicians frequently exercised their right to set parameters for judges sentencing. But these powers were abolished around the turn of

cided with their changing role as law-makers in our unwritten constitution. The "new" judiciary are perceived as far more liberal, increasingly called upon - and unafraid - to protect the citizen against the state, as witnessed by the increasing use of judicial review to check ministers' powers. Howard happens to be the minister who has most often fallen foul of the courts.

The consequences of this war for society are serious. We need faith in the lawmakers - government and judges - who set the rules that bind our social fabric, protect the individual and guarantee order.

The Lord Chief Justice has warned that what judges see as a rash of crude legislation (as many Criminal Justice Acts in the past six years as in the previous 60) is endangering public confidence in the system. And since the stream of notorious miscarriages of justice in the late

1980s, confidence is already diminished.

Nothing could be undermining public confidence more than having the judiciary and executive pulling in different directions.

The only hope is that Howard's new sentencing proposals do not get on to the statute book before an election. He has yet to publish his White Paper and he may run out of parliamentary time. This would let him off two hooks: the continuing and fundamental row over judges' discretion in sentencing and an explosion in the already bursting prison population that he would not be able to contain.

## Howard's proposals

**M**ichael Howard took up the Home Office brief in May 1993, dubbed the most right-wing Home Secretary for 30 years. Encouraged by Labour's shift to a tougher stance on law and order, he has been anxious to pursue a "prison works" policy, introducing measures that have seen the prison population rise by more than 10,000, to a record level of 53,357.

Howard shares the same legal background as Lord Taylor: once having been a barrister - himself a former barrister - but as Home Secretary he has fallen foul of the courts more than any other minister.

The main areas in which the two men differ are:

**Prisons for violent offenders:** Since

Howard became Home Secretary, he has maintained that the aim is to protect the public from persistent and dangerous criminals. He says that violent and sex offenders deserve the maximum sentence of life imprisonment without supervision, even if they have served less than half.

**Repealing previous convictions:** The fact that many defendants - sometimes those accused of rape - have been acquitted when their history might suggest a pattern of offending has led Howard to review the basis on juries' knowledge of defendants' previous convictions.

**Jury trial:** The collapse of a series of complicated fraud trials has led to calls for the right-to-jury trial to be abolished in some cases and replaced by judges sitting with an expert panel.

**Prison:** Howard makes no apologies for pursuing a criminal justice policy that has seen an explosion in the prison population. He argues that the rise in prison numbers has led to a fall in recorded crime.

**Honesty in sentencing:** Howard proposes in a forthcoming White Paper to introduce "honesty in sentencing", making prisoners serve nearly the whole of their sentence, rather than halving long periods on remission.

ever since. He maintains that his top priority is to protect the public, and makes no apologies for the changes he says are necessary to achieve this.

**Sentencing philosophy:** Part of those changes involves a swift U-turn to reverse the policies of his Tory predecessors, which sought to take petty offenders out of jail but which he saw as "soft on crime".

**Right of silence:** One of the most controversial moves was the abolition of the centuries-old right of a defendant to remain silent. Juries now can infer guilt from defendants' silence.

**Revealing previous convictions:** The fact that many defendants - sometimes those accused of rape - have been acquitted when their history might suggest a pattern of offending has led Howard to review the basis on juries' knowledge of defendants' previous convictions.

**Jury trial:** The collapse of a series of complicated fraud trials has led to calls for the right-to-jury trial to be abolished in some cases and replaced by judges sitting with an expert panel.

**Prison:** Howard makes no apologies for pursuing a criminal justice policy that has seen an explosion in the prison population. He argues that the rise in prison numbers has led to a fall in recorded crime.

**Honesty in sentencing:** Howard proposes in a forthcoming White Paper to introduce "honesty in sentencing", making prisoners serve nearly the whole of their sentence, rather than halving long periods on remission.

## Taylor's criticisms

**L**ord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, is the head of the Court of Appeal, and the country's most senior judge. He was appointed by the Queen in 1992, on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, who took "confidential soundings" among other senior judges, and speaks on their behalf.

As his recent attacks on the Government have shown, he pulls no punches. He rose swiftly through the legal ranks, is highly regarded for his incisive mind and independence. He is very influential in the House of Lords, and presents a powerful enemy for Howard. He can only be fired if both Houses of Parliament agree.

His chief areas of disagreement with the Home Secretary are:

**Current proposals for tougher minimum sentences:** Lord Taylor is gravely opposed to a planned White Paper which will see mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists and stiff minimum terms for burglars and drug dealers. He claims they will lead to injustice because the same sentence will apply in all circumstances. They will clog up the courts by removing incentives to plead guilty. They might also make violent offenders, knowing they face life sentences, murder their victims.

**Mandatory life sentence for murder:** Lord Taylor believes it should be abolished so that judges could distinguish between the battered wife who kills her brutal husband and a mass murderer.

**"Too much legislation":** Lord Taylor feels a torrent of hasty legislation is undermining public confidence, and is having to be amended and

reformed through Parliament and the courts.

**Sentencing philosophy:** In the past four years sentencing policy has swung from one extreme to the other. The 1991 Criminal Justice Act declared that prison was an expensive way of making bad people worse and sought to divert all non-serious offenders. The 1993 and 1994 Acts have pursued a "prison works" theme. Lord Taylor wants consistency.

**Right to silence:** Lord Taylor insisted that Howard's removal of this century-old right should be watered down.

**Jury trial:** The Lord Chief Justice sees jury trials as the cornerstone of our criminal justice system.

**Revealing previous convictions:**

Lord Taylor remains firmly opposed to telling juries about a defendant's criminal record because it would "give a dog a bad name", he says.

**Prisons:** Lord Taylor does not believe a longer time inside will deter habitual criminals. "What deters them is the likelihood of being caught; which at the moment is small."

**Honesty in sentencing:** Lord Taylor supports the moves. He has also stood behind the Government on restricting the right to silence (even though he diluted its effects), limiting the amount of evidence to be disclosed to the defence, and changes to the law governing corroboration.

## Saatchi gets its dates mixed up

I hate to be a stinker, but I have a feeling heads could roll over this one. An unbearable lack of communication between the producers of Granada's dating game show *God's Gift* and the ad agency Saatchi & Saatchi has had most unfortunate repercussions both for the Army and for the gay community, and most of all for the Government, which reiterated succinctly and controversially this week that gays may not, in any circumstances, join the armed forces.

It seems the MoD reckoned without an unexpected negative PR effect stemming from this week's episode of *God's Gift*. On Wednesday evening, the programme went out as usual - the show's distinctly naff format consists of five young men who compete both athletically and intellectually in front of a studio audience of women, who vote for one of them to become "*God's Gift*" - but this time there was one difference: the audience was all men.

No problem with that - the show's producers were merely experimenting with a one-off gay episode. But nobody had thought to tell Saatchi & Saatchi, which schedules its adverts for Army recruitment during the programme.

Understandably, members of the gay community who chanced to be watching looked over their beer at such blatant sensitivity. A spokesperson for the gay lobby group Stonewall commented: "It's mighty odd in the week that the government has said we can't have gays in the armed forces because they can't guarantee their safety."

But when I rang Saatchi & Saatchi's offices to inform them of their blunder, staff had no idea that there had been a "gay special". "I think," came a reply from a spokesman, "that I'd better not comment."

## Salad days at Live TV

Now I know why the, er, expansive trio amviate at the head of Live TV,

dubbed by their employees Kelvin "Cuddly" MacKenzie, Nick "Fit" Ferrari and "Big" Bill Ridley, recently introduced a slimming show, *Weight to Go*. Yesterday I spotted Messrs Ferrari and Ridley absorbed in concentration at the low-calorie food section in Canary Wharf's Boots. After much consultation - it was clearly a new experience for them - they bought diet pop, low-calorie yoghurt and shapers sandwiches before heading back rather glumly to their

offices. Of Mr MacKenzie there was no sign - but my spies assure me that power lunch or no, he was fed a plate of lettuce leaves.

## Crèche course

In my bedside reading, I have stumbled across something extraordinary. West-

minster's crèche lobby, which believes that its fruitless campaign for a baby room is 25 years old, is misinformed. As far back as 1949 there was a request for a crèche in Westminster's eight acres of space and it came from none other than the late Labour MP Tom Driberg.

In a 1949 edition of the now-defunct lifestyle magazine *John Bull*, Driberg wrote: "There is no reason why special accommodation should not be found, in the vast Palace of Westminster, not only for women MPs but for their infant offspring. There is plenty of room for a crèche, or a nursery - later on, perhaps, even for a kindergarten which might teach the ABC of politics."

Given Driberg's unorthodox character, he was a promiscuous homosexual and Soviet spy - this is perhaps not the kind of endorsement that Commons crèche campaigners are actively seeking. But when I called Gary Kent, a researcher who is one of its most stalwart defenders, he was delighted. "We welcome support from any quarter. You don't have to be a parent to appreciate the civilising influence of children."

## Chain reaction

How pleasant to find that the Internet is following the traditions of real mail. A colleague received an e-mail yesterday which began solemnly: "This message has been sent to you for good luck..." Yes, God help us, chain mail has hit the Net. My advice to all other "surfers", if we are to purge the system of such intrusion, is to obey only one of the instructions in this banal missive: "This message must leave your hands in 96 hours." It took me much less time than that to press "Delete".

Eagle Eye

You don't have to be a Direct Line customer to apply for a Personal Loan.

## Want a cheaper Personal Loan?

**Don't bank on the big three banks.**

Good news if you're looking for a loan. You can borrow between £1,000 and £15,000 from Direct Line at a lower cost. Whatever you want to buy we can lend a hand. As you'd expect from Direct Line the service is

| LENDER         | AMOUNT OF LOAN | APR%  | 36 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS | TOTAL PAYABLE |
|----------------|----------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------|
| DIRECT LINE    | £10,000        | 14.9% | £102.59               | £3,692.34     |
|                | £6,000         | 13.9% | £60.66                | £2,394.70     |
| BARCLAYS       | £10,000        | 17.9% | £104.42               | £3,811.12     |
|                | £6,000         | 17.9% | £62.54                | £2,402.34     |
| NAT WEST       | £10,000        | 15.9% | £103.77               | £3,738.72     |
|                | £6,000         | 14.9% | £68.98                | £2,579.28     |
| ABBEY NATIONAL | £10,000        | 16.9% | £105.05               | £3,781.80     |
|                | £6,000         | 15.9% | £69.54                | £2,741.44     |

APR current as 29/02/96.

0181 680 9966

LONDON

0161 831 9966

MANCHESTER

0141 248 9966

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND6

Personal Loans provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 129 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 2BQ. Loans are available from £1,000 to £15,000. \*You must be aged 22 or over, have a regular income (and have a current comprehensive motor insurance policy). We reserve the right to decline any application. Please note loans for holidays are repayable over not more than 12 months. Repayments are payable monthly by direct debit. APR varies depending on the term and amount of the loan. Written quotations are available on request. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trade marks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc.

\*For your added security all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure.



DIRECT LINE  
PERSONAL LOANS

# THE INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1986

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 6DL  
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

EDITOR: Charles Wilson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Charles Leadbetter MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes  
SECTION TWO EDITOR: Simon Kelner SATURDAY EDITOR: David Robson  
EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams NIGHT EDITOR: Richard HolledgeLiam Healy (Chairman) Lord Borrie Ben Bradlee Juan Luis Cebrian Brendan Hopkins  
David Montgomery Javier Diaz de Polanco Cornel Riklin Andreas Whitman Smith  
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Reed

## The wrong way to fight crime

**C**rime is one of the most important social issues in Britain today. Fear of violence, alongside anger at unsolved burglaries and theft, are undermining public confidence that the Government, the judiciary, the police and the prison service have got the problem under control.

Yesterday's row between the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, and Michael Howard over sentencing can only compound that disillusionment. This battle looks like buck-passing: the Home Secretary blames the judges for being too soft on criminals, while Lord Taylor has accused the Home Secretary of endlessly changing the law on sentencing, to little effect and with scant regard for justice.

Yet neither figure offers a workable blueprint for cutting crime. We are, whatever the outcome of this week's debate, stuck with a system that does not detect many criminals and which fails to punish them in a way that prevents most from reoffending. In short, the conflict between Lord Taylor and Mr Howard is largely irrelevant to the concerns of most of us.

The key issue of contention is Mr Howard's plan to introduce mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists and other violent criminals, along with tough minimum terms for persistent burglars and drug dealers.

On Wednesday night, Lord Taylor rightly criticised the proposals on practical rather than constitutional grounds. Mandatory sentences reduce the discretion of judges to make the punishment fit the criminal. They mean an offender is unable to cut his sentence by entering an early guilty plea. More defendants will fight charges to the bitter end, further clogging up the courts.

A mandatory life sentence for repeat

rapists may persuade some that they might as well kill the victim, the only witness to their crime, since a murder will not increase their sentence. The last, and perhaps most devastating, criticism by the Lord Chief Justice is that tougher sentences do not cut crime in general. Better detection, rather than harsher sentences, is the answer, he says.

It is refreshing to hear judges joining the policy debate about how to tackle crime provided, as Lord Taylor accepts, they acknowledge Parliament's right to decide the law. The Lord Chief Justice's comments should not be dismissed as wingeing from the judge's trade union leader. Mr Howard should take the objections into consideration before publishing his White Paper on criminal justice. Tougher mandatory prison sentences may appeal to public opinion, but if they are ineffective, or indeed make crime worse, they are an expensive indulgence.

The Home Secretary should also think carefully before he weighs in with yet further reforms of the criminal justice system, which has, as Lord Taylor says, been overburdened with legislative initiatives. Overhasty reforms – notably those in the early Nineties that made sentencing more lenient – have had to be reversed.

The judges and the Home Secretary must do more than squabble if they are genuinely to address public concern about crime. They must think up new ways of dealing with offenders. Innovative punishment in the community, shaming people into changing their behaviour, might be effective. Until Mr Howard and his judicial colleagues tell us how they can cut recidivism, rows about sentencing will be dismissed as a distraction from the real issues.

The judges and the Home Secretary must do more than squabble if they are genuinely to address public concern about crime. They must think up new ways of dealing with offenders. Innovative punishment in the community, shaming people into changing their behaviour, might be effective. Until Mr Howard and his judicial colleagues tell us how they can cut recidivism, rows about sentencing will be dismissed as a distraction from the real issues.

The judges and the Home Secretary must do more than squabble if they are genuinely to address public concern about crime. They must think up new ways of dealing with offenders. Innovative punishment in the community, shaming people into changing their behaviour, might be effective. Until Mr Howard and his judicial colleagues tell us how they can cut recidivism, rows about sentencing will be dismissed as a distraction from the real issues.

The grimly predictable was followed by the unpredictably grim. Now it is back to the grimly predictable. The US presidential primary campaign, having taken a detour through some scary territory, has bumped back on to its pundit-approved rails. The election proper (still eight months away) will be between President Bill Clinton and Senator Robert Dole.

But Mr Dole's shaky performance in the early primaries, and the strange gods invoked by the rabble-rousing Pat Buchanan, have left the entire Republican strategy for 1996 in tatters. The game was to paint the gay-loving gun-hating, womanising, draft-dodging Bill Clinton as "out of the mainstream"; now it is the Republicans who find themselves trying to scramble back on to the centre ground.

Mr Dole faces two great problems and one great unknown. The first problem is how to co-opt Mr Buchanan's vitality, and his blue-collar support, without swallowing the poison of his extremism. Mr Dole needs the grassroots organising power of the Republican right to get out the vote for him in November. Contrary to the received view, US elections are not decided on television alone; you have to get those couch potatoes into the polling booth.

A decisive moment will be the Republican convention in San Diego in August. Mr Buchanan and his scores of delegates will have to be given their due if they are to play on the same team in the autumn. But Mr Dole cannot allow them to turn the convention, as they did in 1992, into

a prayer-meeting for fundamentalist right-wing intolerance.

The second great problem facing Mr Dole is his choice of running-mate. He might sensibly choose, say, General Colin Powell, who is, like him, a centrist, Washington insider. But such a choice would be bitterly contested on the right of the party (not just for racist reasons, though to be sure, race would be a part of it).

Bob Dole is a cautious man. Since he is an old-fashioned (and just plain old) Midwestern Senate leader, he will go for a young, Southern, modern conservative type with no Washington experience. This will lose him no votes but gain him very few.

The other unknown is Ross Perot. If he enters the race as a third force, he will siphon off part of the anti-Clinton vote and probably hand the President a second term. Will the Texan billionaire run? Almost certainly.

At this early stage in the proceedings it is hard to see the President – now 12 points ahead in the polls – being turned out of office. But Mr Clinton's entire public life has been a big dipper. If he is up today, nothing is more certain than that he will be down tomorrow. The economy, White-water, the US mission to Bosnia remain giant hostages to fortune.

In other words, Bill Clinton can still lose it; it is difficult to see Bob Dole winning it. Even in his moment of triumph after eight primary wins on Tuesday night, he offered no answer to the question that stumped Edward Kennedy in 1980: "Why do you want to be president?"

## The New York gal and the Shropshire lad



MILES KINGTON

has got her: the pale horror-dogs who yelp and maul over Proust and Pirandello are hugging Jane to their bosoms and treating her least novels as if they were a Byzantine codex.

This was written in 1927 by DB Wyndham Lewis, and seems to be a cry of alarm at the thought of the Bloomsbury mob claiming Jane Austen as one of theirs, or at least at the thought of the literati taking her out of the realm of the much-read into the much-discussed.

She seems to have survived the treatment pretty well, as well as she is surviving the dual assault at the moment by television and Emma Thompson, and Wyndham Lewis need not have worried.

Not that he did worry. Perusing a collection of pieces written in the Twenties, I find that DB Wyndham Lewis was much more obsessed

with another writer who has also recently turned up in the anniversary news: AE Housman.

I am not sure what Housman's reputation is today – quite high with the Shropshire Tourist Board, I would imagine, and fairly quiet elsewhere – but it must have been pretty big in the Twenties; and this riled DB Wyndham Lewis considerably, as he found Housman's Shropshire stuff too gloomy for words.

He catches Housman's tone quite well when he suggests that if Housman had written "I'm To Be Queen of the May!" instead of *Tennyson*, it would have come out like this:

*Oh Mother, wake and call me.  
It is the First of May!  
Whatever may befall me  
I simply must be gay  
Though clammy lies the clay.*

*On Wenlock Edge the plowers  
Depress me with their wail,  
The lads who were my lovers  
Are hanged in Shrewsbury Gaol.  
It makes me rather pale.*

*If I should catch pneumonia  
Through walking in the dew  
I leave my pet geronia  
To little Sister Sue,  
My mulching iron, too.*

## ROSIN INSTITUTE EDINBURGH



What are the implications of cloning sheep, doctor?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Arts A-levels not a soft option for the indolent

Sir: It is sickening to see those in authority continuing to pull up the ladder and deny to those who are starting today those benefits that they themselves were blessed with ("A-level exams will be made harder to pass", 6 March).

Gillian Shepherd, Secretary of State for Education, Sir Ron Dearing and others should remember how easy things were for them compared with today's students. Reasonable grants, cheap accommodation, no student loans scheme or threats of payment for higher education, good job prospects and far lower entry qualifications – you only needed five O-levels to study law in the early 1960s.

Universities, when they select students, are perfectly aware of

today's standards in A-levels and set entry qualifications accordingly. Making some subjects even more difficult to pass is pointless. It is yet another cheap but cosmetic alteration to our education system.

My daughter has just passed four arts subjects at A-level and I can confirm that the past two years have not been the period of indolence that some of the more reactionary members of the establishment might imagine.

C J A COLEMAN  
Polegate, Sussex

Sir: It seems Sir Ron Dearing has not carried out his research to a standard acceptable for A-level. May I remind him to be wary of biased sources?

### What the police can, and cannot, do to fight crime

Sir: Peter Waddington's argument ("Finding a real job for Bobby", 1 March) that, as an instrument of crime-fighting, policing is largely an irrelevance relies on throw-away comments which trivialise the work of the police.

The demands of today's world preclude the "aimless wandering around" of patrols. In my own area, patrols are deployed in accordance with a planned and costed response to local problems, and results are evaluated in terms of the

reduction in crime and disorder.

In detecting offenders, it is true that the police are not the main players. The value of co-operation from the public cannot be overemphasised, and it depends so much on close contact with the community, developing mutual trust to overcome fear of reprisals and a belief that "the police can't do anything anyway".

When people ask the police to intervene in a situation, it is often because there is no one else to deal with it; it may be a dispute which poses little or no threat to

public order – but yes, the uniform represents authority. The service is changing to meet new challenges: changing in appearance, too, as the necessity to introduce personal protective equipment gradually renders the traditional uniform obsolete. It is worth considering whether tomorrow's new look patrols will appear less approachable to the public.

Chief Inspector PAUL D DONNELLY  
Knowsley South Area  
Merseyside Police

RICHARD BURDEN MP  
(Birmingham  
Northfield, Lab)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

MEHDI HASAN  
(aged 16)  
Harrow, Middlesex

Sir: Suicide bombers are por-

trayed as terrorists but they are actually devout young men who believe, on respected authority, that death will

transport them instantly to paradise where they will find their martyr's reward.

After such religious education classes we must be thankful that suicide attacks are not com-

moner. Appeals to the better

feelings of the faithful are

counterproductive given the bet-

ter feelings that they have been

brought up to have.

Dr RICHARD DAWKINS  
Oxford

Sir: Israel once again plans to

resort to its old failed "iron fist"

policy to contain the Palestinians.

It should not be acceptable in

a civilised society to turn a blind

eye to the violence of Jewish set-

ters but harshly punish similar

acts of resistance by Muslim and

Christian Palestinians with col-

lective punishment and expul-

sions. The mullahs have had far

less influence in fuelling resis-

tance by Hamas than Israel with

its repression and denial of equal

rights.

HAMED MOOLLA  
Nalisea,  
Avon

### Jail employers for workplace deaths

Sir: The Law Commission proposal to create a new offence of "corporate killing" ("Demand to get tough on firms that kill", 6 March) will do very little to prevent the 400 deaths a year in British workplaces.

The demands of today's world preclude the "aimless wandering around" of patrols. In my own area, patrols are deployed in accordance with a planned and costed response to local problems, and results are evaluated in terms of the

reduction in crime and disorder.

In detecting offenders, it is true that the police are not the main players. The value of co-operation from the public cannot be overemphasised, and it depends so much on close contact with the community, developing mutual trust to overcome fear of reprisals and a belief that "the police can't do anything anyway".

When people ask the police to intervene in a situation, it is often because there is no one else to deal with it; it may be a dispute which poses little or no threat to

public order – but yes, the uniform represents authority. The service is changing to meet new challenges: changing in appearance, too, as the necessity to introduce personal protective equipment gradually renders the traditional uniform obsolete. It is worth considering whether tomorrow's new look patrols will appear less approachable to the public.

NORMAN GODFREY  
London NW3

Fashion affront

Sir: Your photograph (2 March) from the London Fashion Week seemed a sad reflection on our society. Christians will be journeymen through Lent towards Good Friday and the model's mask depicting the crucified Christ seems an affront to the season.

PATRICIA FRIEL  
East Twickenham,  
Middlesex

D C O'FLYNN  
London SE4

Iraq

Iraq

## comment

## Ireland's peaceful revolution

While British interest has focused on Irish politics, the Republic has undergone an economic miracle

**I**magine a small country with a population of 3 million or so, with a growth rate last year and this of around 7 per cent, with a current account surplus of 6 per cent of Gross National Product, and with inflation at 2.5 per cent. It is a country second only to Japan in the proportion of young workers with a scientific or engineering degree. And this country will, if present growth rates continue, have a higher GNP per head than the UK within a decade.

Now, where is it? It sounds a bit like Singapore five years ago. It is presumably somewhere in East Asia, because that is the only part of the world where there are those growth rates and (sometimes) reasonably low inflation. It could not be Latin America or Eastern Europe because though there are bursts of growth in some countries there, these are invariably associated with sharply rising prices. Obviously the country could not be in Western Europe because the European economy is in trouble.

Wrong. It is the Republic of Ireland. If our minds were not so dominated by political stories about Ireland we would be seeking the reasons behind this economic story. There would be headlines not about the prospect of another 25 years of the Troubles, but rather about the economic tiger of Europe. A brief visit to Dublin this week has made me ponder why this should be happening, what implications there might be for other countries on the periphery of Europe, and inevitably, what implications economic success in the Republic might have for Ireland as a whole.

The answer to the "why?" starts with a caveat. The figures above are quite correct but they are incomplete. One of the principal reasons for this success story is the large transfer of funds across the exchanges each year from other European Union countries, in practice (since they are the main net contributors) Germany and Britain. This is about £2bn a year, or nearly 4 per cent of GDP – the equivalent of Britain getting £30bn a year from taxpayers in other countries.

These funds are by no means the whole explanation of the higher growth rate, but they do affect the Irish economy in two ways: they lift GDP and insofar as they are sensibly invested they kick-start the economy into higher growth.

This Ireland looks and feels richer than it otherwise would be, were this transfer not taking place; anyone who knows Dublin but has not been there for a few years would be astounded by the swift feel the place has now: clean buildings, stylish people, even better restaurants than before – and Dubliners always ate well. The country's infrastructure has benefited enormously from this inflow of funds and indirectly this money has flowed through the economy into the evident increase in consumption. But from a long-term economic point of view the greater motor of growth has been the attraction of foreign investment. This has boosted exports and it is export growth that is driving the economy.

There is some debate within Ireland as to just how wise the country has been to "buy" foreign jobs with lavish tax holidays and the like. The criticism has been that Irish companies have been penalised in order to bring in foreign ones. Personal taxation remains burdensome and unemployment at nearly 14 per cent is high even by European standards. But the country has created a new economy based on high-technology manufacturing and financial services which it did not have 15 years ago.

With this type of economy distance is irrelevant. If you export electronic goods the transport costs are tiny in relation to everything else. If you export financial services the transport costs are nil. What you need is young, well-educated people.

Ireland is the youngest country in Europe, with 28 per cent of its population under the age of 16 (the average is 19 per cent). This puts a burden on the educational system, but Ireland has

pumped resources into education. The proportion of young people entering higher education has risen from less than 20 per cent in 1980 to 40 per cent now and on present trends will pass 50 per cent by the end of the century.

In the short-term some of this has been "wasted" in the sense that many of these people have been unable to find jobs in Ireland and have emigrated.

It has not been wasted as far as the individuals are concerned, but from a national point of view a relatively poor country by European standards has paid to improve the labour stock of other, richer ones. But in the longer run all the evidence is that the higher the levels of education, the greater the potential for job creation: looking ahead, Ireland shows one of the highest rates of increase in the stock of human capital anywhere in the world.

So Ireland is very well placed to gather a larger share of the new on-screen service jobs – things like handling insurance claims for North American insurance companies or running unit trusts for London fund managers. (A friend in that industry told me that it took a quarter of the time to get approval for a new unit trust in Dublin compared to the DTI in London. Result: frequently Dublin got the business.)

This is tremendously important. In a world where trade is carried out in bytes shot across the fibre-optic cables, comparative advantage lies in human capital. It does not matter where those people are, except in the sense that good people are more easily attracted to pleasant places with decent schools and some cultural life.

If the fringe can offer that, then the fringe ceases to be at a disadvantage to the core. Ireland's location, which undoubtedly has been an economic handicap in the past, might even become an advantage, for it offers quality of life that for many people is immensely attractive.

You hear quite a lot of this economic triumphalism in Ireland these days and anyone meeting it should remember that there is still a big economic question mark. Is it whether the base is secure enough to withstand the inevitable erosion of the EU subsidy. As Ireland becomes richer it will no longer qualify for such assistance. The EU agricultural subsidies will in any case tend to decline, and as the EU itself expands Ireland will find that there are other countries in eastern Europe that have a stronger claim for whatever funds are available.

Still, 7 per cent growth is not to be sneezed at. Rapid growth is likely to continue. UBS, the Swiss-owned London investment bank reckons that growth will continue at around 5 per cent through to the end of 1998. And I think this may create a dynamic of its own.

The point is obvious. Thanks largely to the British taxpayer, Northern Ireland has experienced higher living standards than the Republic. The more the south is an economic success, the smaller that particular barrier to a closer relationship between the two. Of course the conflict is not about economics. Nevertheless wealth is a balm and it seems very much in the interest of both of these islands that this success story should continue.



HAMISH MCRAE

Economic success could lower the barrier to a closer relationship with the north

## Well, thanks for the memory

Obituaries are becoming a little too frank and fearless, says Paul Vallely

**C**ompare and contrast: Douglas Jay had one of the ablest and most original minds in the post-war Labour Party ... a moderniser before his time ... who set himself high standards of public conduct ... his qualities of integrity and modesty earned him the solid respect of colleagues in both the House of Commons and, later, in the House of Lords.

"Jay ... a shambolic figure ... his oratory was as mediocre and uninspiring as his appearance ... Stories about his reputed tightness with money abounded ... his attire was such that at one overseas gathering ... he was mistaken for a tramp and ... one of his suits was accidentally passed off to Oxfam ... [in later years] his passionate anti-Europe campaign ... became hectoring and unreadable."

The former is the obituary of the former cabinet minister which appeared yesterday in the *Times*. It is an example of the old Augustan style of obituary writing: cool, restrained and anonymous – the last word on a public figure passed authoritatively by his peers. The latter is the obituary of the former cabinet minister which appeared yesterday in the *Times*. It is an example of the old Augustan style of obituary writing: cool, restrained and anonymous – the last word on a public figure passed authoritatively by his peers.

The former is the obituary of the former cabinet minister which appeared yesterday in the *Times*. It is an example of the old Augustan style of obituary writing: cool, restrained and anonymous – the last word on a public figure passed authoritatively by his peers.

'Fond of the good life' in an obituary meant the deceased was a drunk

obituary as obitribe – was Chris Moncrieff, sometime political editor of PA. Admittedly his obitribe contained a core of neutral facts, but virtually every judgement was negative and the tone almost pejorative. "I know the family found it offensive, but I thought it was fair and balanced," insisted a bewildered Moncrieff yesterday. "It is just one of 100 obituaries I've written in the past year. There was no difference in approach and there have been no complaints previously."

All of which might seem a bit rich to those who know Moncrieff. For the man who described Jay as shambolic and lacking dress sense was himself best spotted round the Palace of Westminster before his retirement by his shabby anorak and the scruffy blue duvet bag which he used in place of a briefcase. And this chronicler of Jay's eccentric eating habits was himself a generous consumer of Guinness, until warned off the stuff by an unerring fortune-teller he once went to interview. But we are getting ahead of ourselves here. We should probably save all that for the obituary.

**"I'm not a crook"**

- RICHARD NIXON



**NOMINATED FOR 4 ACADEMY AWARDS**  
BEST ACTOR • BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS  
BEST MUSIC • BEST SCREENPLAY

ANTHONY HOPKINS  
**NIXON**  
AN OLIVER STONE FILM

AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU  
FROM MARCH 15

## Do not cower from science

The news that biologists have successfully cloned sheep is cause for hope, not fear, says Tom Wilkie



Woolly debate: a future Hitler could only clone himself at the moment of his own conception

Photograph: Clare Aron

**T**he cry has gone up: will they do to us what they have done to the sheep?

**T**he cry has gone up: will they do to us what they have done to the sheep?

**T**echniques of genetic engineering – was born in Cambridge. So is any fuss now really justified?

**A**t the very beginning, the Roslin lamb started their journey to life in the traditional manner: with a ram tapping a ewe and its sperm mingled with the ewe's egg. But nine days after fertilisation, when the single-celled egg had grown to a

frog or toads but the first healthy live lambs to be produced by a cloning technique were born more than 10 years ago. It is also nearly 10 years since a "chimaeric" mammal – a cross between a sheep and a goat that could never have come into being without the

In effect, from one fertilised egg they now have a "clone", a collection – which they could make as large as they liked – of genetically identical cells available in the laboratory glassware. If one cell gave rise to the "birth" of an animal that proved particularly valuable, it would be possible to produce hundreds of identical copies as long as the other cells had been kept in culture. And, when genetic engineering becomes sophisticated enough, it might be possible to insert DNA leading to desirable characteristics directly into the cells.

For the same reason, clones

Nor need the applications be restricted to farm animals. What would Elvis Presley and those of us who wept with him over the death of "Old Shep" have done if it had been possible to produce that beloved dog in this way? If the original cell line from which Shep sprang had been kept going in the laboratory, Elvis could have ordered up a replacement "Shep" – identical in every way to the original newborn puppy that grew into the dog he loved.

But Elvis could not have cloned his dog by taking one of Shep's body cells just before he blew the animal's brains out. Shep's cells were all "differentiated" – they had in effect already chosen to be nerve or muscle or skin cells and not any other sort. The Roslin researchers had to use cells from a very early embryo because only these cells are capable of developing into every other type and thus forming all the tissues of living individual.

As is to be expected in new

of Elvis himself or even of Hitler would have been impossible. It may one day be possible to clone from differentiated cells, but no one yet knows how to do so.

It is possible in principle to apply the Roslin technique to humans. But some future Hitler

Cloning humans is illegal and is not likely to replace traditional means

could clone copies of himself only if, at the moment of his conception (years before anyone could ever know that he would become a megalomaniac dictator), some of his totipotent embryonic cells had been cultured and thus forming all the tissues of living individual.

As is to be expected in new

scientific research, the overall

jackpot are millions to one. They ask for no guarantee that they are going to win something. They know it is a gamble and you can win or lose. Camelot, which thrives on our willingness to gamble, apparently expects to enjoy the benefits without risks. This is not good enough. Yes, we should protect money for good causes and taxation but the operator should have no right to guarantee its profits.

In bookmaking, we can win or lose

on any event. We accept that risk. So should Camelot. Surely, with their profits, they can afford to take the occasional risk.

The vast majority of players have

taken to the National Lottery knowing that their chances of winning the

## A £10 pay-out? Don't bet on it

ANOTHER VIEW

Graham Sharpe

**T**he only reason given for this change in the rules is a need to protect Camelot's profits. To achieve this, the organisers appear to have uncrossed their fingers and stuck them up at the British public. Their action is an abuse of their monopoly position and would not be considered in a normal competitive environment.

Within bookmaking, for example, we offer a Lucky Choice bet involving selecting numbers on the Irish lottery. Regardless of the number of winners, we guarantee a minimum £4.25 for picking three numbers from the first six drawn. This amount is paid out regardless of the number of winners. Equally, if all our customers back the Grand National winner, all will be paid regardless of the consequences to our profits.

In bookmaking, we can win or lose

**I**n a world of increasing uncertainty, over the past 15 months a new certainty has been with us: if you pick three of the six numbers on the National Lottery, you win £10. This was promised by Camelot at its launch, but from 17 March it will disappear and punters will be left on a Saturday night not knowing whether they have won £10 or 10p.

First, I should make it clear that we at William Hill are not opposed to the National Lottery. Throughout the country, good causes have received welcome assistance and practically every household now waits in anticipation that their lives will be changed for ever by the weekly result.

However, we consider the public

Pharmaceutical fusion: Biggest merger in history will create 'Novartis', the world's second-largest drugs group, while bid spotlight turns on Zeneca

## Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz to merge into £40bn giant

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz from Switzerland rocketed into the record books yesterday after unveiling a £14bn merger plan to create the world's second-largest drugs group. If completed, the deal would easily be the largest merger on record, but is likely to spell job losses in the UK.

The companies warned that around 10 per cent of the combined workforce, or 13,000 people world-wide, could be sacked. This may have implications in the UK, where the two companies have 6,000 staff.

The new company, to be called Novartis, would rank second only in market share to Glaxo Wellcome. Itself the creation of a £9.3bn takeover last year, the deal will be scrutinised closely by competition authorities in Europe and the US.

News of the merger affected pharmaceuticals shares across Europe as dealers expected it to trigger another wave of consolidation in the pharmaceuticals industry. Before a lull in the recent merger mania, around \$80bn of deals had been done in the industry in the past three years. Shares in Zeneca of the UK and Schering of Germany rose sharply yesterday. Both are seen as vulnerable to takeover due to their relatively small size compared with the emerging industry giants. Meanwhile, there were falls for potential predators, such as Roche, a Swiss rival to Ciba that has long been tipped as a bidder for Zeneca, and Glaxo Wellcome.

The recent wave of consolidation has come in the wake of the deceleration in the drugs market in the 1990s in the face of increased governmental and consumer attempts to reduce ballooning health-care budgets. This has increased the pressure on companies to cut costs. Ciba and Sandoz said their merger

would release SFr1.8bn (£1bn) in synergy benefits over three years, with half coming in the first 18 months.

Peter Laing, an analyst with Salomon Brothers, said the latest deal showed that "consolidation in the industry hasn't gone away and the pressure to cut costs hasn't gone away. So I don't think this will be the last."

Middle-sized companies such as Novo of Denmark, Sanofi of France and Schering would all be wondering where their future lay, he suggested. By the end of the century, the top 10 drugs companies would each command world-wide market shares

of between 5 and 10 per cent rather than the 3 to 4 per cent typical now, he forecast.

Novartis would have had annual sales of \$Fr36bn (£20bn) had it been in existence last year, but Ciba-Geigy plans to split off its specialty chemicals division and Novartis will divest its construction chemicals business, leaving turnover of \$Fr26bn. The new company will focus on pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals, where it will lead the world market.

Sandoz shareholders will receive 55 per cent of the new company's shares and Ciba shareholders 45 per cent. Ciba's chairman, Alex Krauer, will become Novartis chairman and Sandoz chief executive, Daniel

Vasella, is to be head of the executive committee. Both companies yesterday announced profit increases for 1995. Ciba-Geigy's net profits rose 13 per cent to \$Fr1.6bn, while Sandoz grew 18 per cent to \$Fr2.04bn. Based on 1995 figures, Novartis would therefore have net income of \$Fr4.2bn and a downy of \$Fr15bn in cash and marketable securities.

The merger was welcomed by analysts who highlighted the complementary nature of the two companies' product areas. However, they pointed out that Ciba, for one, may have been pushed to pursue a deal as two of its five most promising new drugs are facing problems. Selfotel, a treatment for strokes, has been withdrawn after poor clinical results last year and Hirudin, an anti-blood clotting drug, may have to be abandoned if results out this month do not live up to expectations.

Novartis expects to have strong positions in seven therapeutic areas, Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz said. Most of the group's top 10 products are expected to achieve double-digit growth. They include Volaren, Ciba's arthritis and rheumatism treatment, which achieved sales of \$Fr1.5bn last year, and Sandiumus/Neoral, which notched up \$Fr1.4bn.

In the UK, the two groups are better known for consumer brands such as Lysol, Savlon and Nicotinell, the anti-smoking patches, which are all part of the Ciba portfolio, and Sandoz's Ovaltine. The Ciba workforce in the UK looks the more vulnerable to any job cuts. The company has seven manufacturing sites employing around 4,500, compared with Sandoz's 1,500 employees in the UK.

The Transport & General Workers Union, which has a substantial membership at the two companies, said it expected job losses.

BSkyB's European partners label its statement 'premature'

There is more than a touch of *déjà vu* about the proposed marriage between Sandoz and Ciba-Geigy. The companies have long and similar histories and worked extremely closely together for the first half of this century, writes John Shepherd.

Ciba-Geigy started life in 1758 when Johann Geigy started selling spices and natural dyes. The Ciba part of the business was not really formed until almost a century later when Alexander Clavel started to take advantage of the development of synthetic dyes.

By 1900, Ciba, an acronym for Gesellschaft für Chemische Industrie in Basle, had become Switzerland's leading chemical company and benefited greatly for a few years from the collapse of the huge German chemical cartel during the First World War.

However, the German cartel was re-assembled as IG Farben soon after the war and the Swiss had little option but to form their own cartel called Basel AG, comprising Ciba, Geigy, and Sandoz.

The Swiss companies, which shared profits, technology and mar-

kets, quickly started to do much better than the German cartel and diversified into pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.

In 1929, the German and Swiss cartels merged and a couple of years later the French and British equivalents were brought into the fold. The so-called Quadrupartite Cartel lasted until the outbreak of the Second World War, leaving only the cosy Swiss grouping intact.

The Swiss also made a big breakthrough during the first year of the Second World War when Paul

Muller, a scientist at Geigy, invented DDT – a compound which won him a Nobel prize.

The cartel lasted until 1951 when the three Swiss companies decided that they no longer needed the protective cartel umbrella and went their separate ways.

Ciba and Geigy continued to diversify. During the 1950s Geigy expanded rapidly, finding new markets in agricultural chemicals. By the late 1960s its sales were greater than Ciba's.

Fresh and intense competition

from foreign companies such as Imperial Chemical Industries brought Ciba and Geigy back together again. Ciba and Geigy merged in 1970 and expanded rapidly through acquisitions in the US, including Airway Industries and Funk Seeds.

The acquisitive policy continued in the 1980s, and Ciba-Geigy also began forming joint ventures. One of the most notable was the link-up with Chiron to produce and market genetically engineered vaccines. It bought Maag AG, the agrochemicals business, from Hoffmann-La Roche in 1990. Following the break-up of the Swiss cartel, Sandoz was busily diversifying. It moved into the seeds business, buying Minneapolis-based Northrup, King & Company, and the Dutch-based Zaadzuur.

During the 1980s it bought Wasa, a Swedish crispbread company, and the Master Builders construction chemicals business from Martin Marietta.

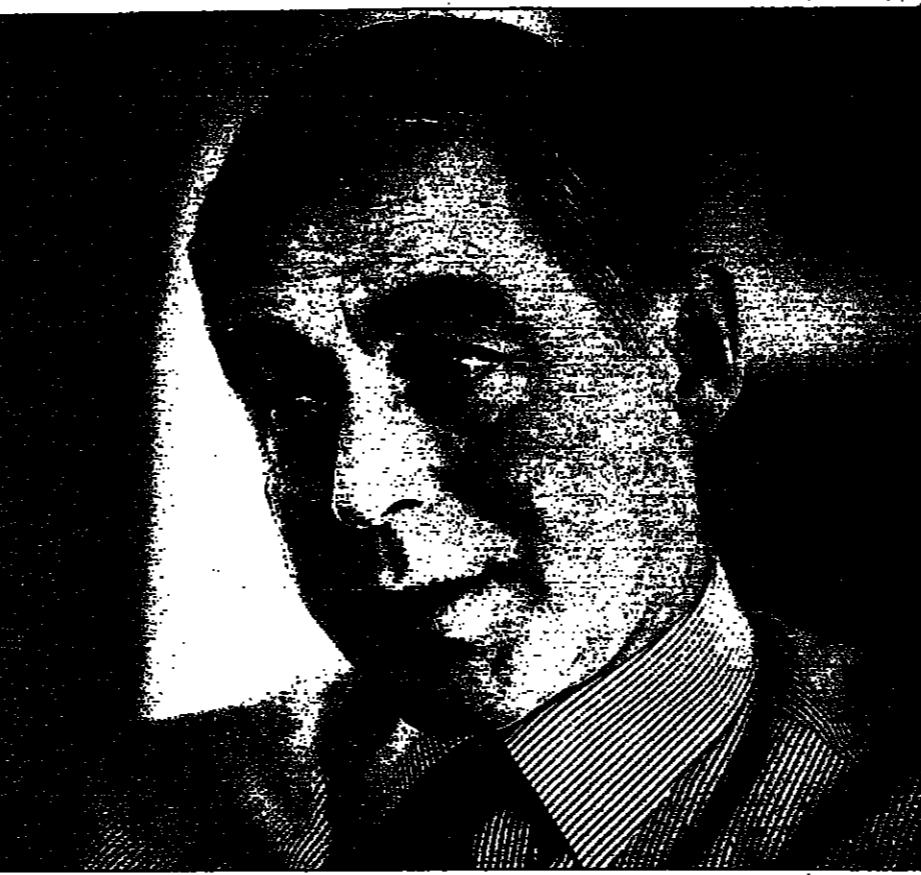
All the success, however, was marred in the company's centenary year in 1986 when a warehouse fire spilled tons of chemicals into the

Rhine, killing fish and contaminating water as far away as the North Sea.

The 1990s has again been a period of diversification, involving buying investments in two American biotechnology companies – Genetech and Therapy Systemix.

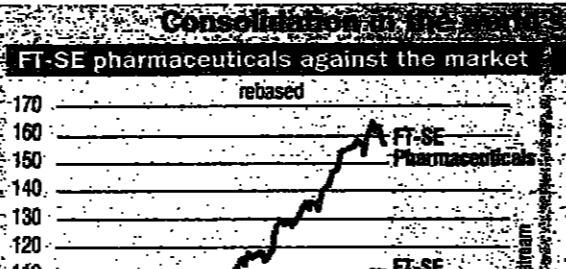
Today, some 45 per cent of sales come from pharmaceuticals; 18 per cent from nutrition products; 14 per cent from chemicals and the rest from agroproducts, seeds, and construction and environmental chemicals.

*Additional reporting by Bloomberg*



Independent plans: Zeneca's David Barnes dismisses talk of joining with a bigger group

| Product         | Disease area              |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Voltaren      | Inflammation, pain        |
| 2 Sandoz/       |                           |
| Neoral          | Transplants               |
| 3 Regen         | Nervous system            |
| 4 Prostafem TTS | Cardiovascular            |
| 5 Lesopex/      |                           |
| Cibac           | Nervous system            |
| 6 Zaditen       | Inflammation, respiratory |
| 7 Estaderm      | Hormone replacement       |
| 8 Lomelin       | Dermatology               |
| 9 Cibac/        |                           |
| Lomelin         | Cardiovascular            |
| 10 Paracetol    | Nervous system            |



| Company              | Market value (£bn) |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Globo Wellcome       | 4.7                |
| Novartis             | 4.6                |
| Merck                | 3.5                |
| Hoechst Marion       | 3.5                |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb | 3.1                |
| American Home        | 2.9                |
| Pfizer               | 2.9                |
| Johnson & Johnson    | 2.9                |
| Roche                | 2.6                |
| Smithkline Beecham   | 2.5                |

| Buyer              | Target                                     | Price (£bn) | Year |
|--------------------|--|-------------|------|
| Globo Holdings     | Wellcome                                   | 9.3         | 1995 |
| Pharmacia          | Upjohn                                     | 8.5         | 1995 |
| Bristol-Myers      | Squibb                                     | 7.24        | 1989 |
| American Home      | American Cyanamid                          | 6.1         | 1995 |
| Merck              | Medco Containment Services                 | 4.15        | 1993 |
| Roche Holding      | Syntex                                     | 2.3         | 1995 |
| Eli Lilly          | McKesson's PCS Health Systems              | 2.5         | 1994 |
| Smithkline Beecham | Sterling Winthrop's over-the-counter drugs | 1.84        | 1995 |
| Smithkline Beecham | Diversified Pharmaceutical Services        | 1.45        | 1994 |
| Ciba Geigy         | Chiron*                                    | 1.32        | 1995 |
| Roche Holding      | Genentech*                                 | 1.32        | 1995 |

Shares in Zeneca jumped 7.5 per cent to an all-time peak yesterday as the stock market anticipated that the UK pharmaceuticals group would be the next takeover target in the wake of the Sandoz-Ciba-Geigy merger, writes Magnus Grimond.

John Mayo, finance director, said margins in specialties would rise to above 8 per cent, up from 5.4 per cent in 1995, once the disposals were completed. The news comes hot on the heels of February's disposal of a half-share of the seeds business, which is expected to eliminate losses, which more than doubled to £48m last year.

Zeneca also won full marks from analysts for the performance of its core pharmaceuticals business. Drugs sales advanced 10 per cent to £16bn, the first time they

## Takeover talk sends Zeneca shares soaring

Shares in Zeneca jumped 7.5 per cent to an all-time peak yesterday as the stock market anticipated that the UK pharmaceuticals group would be the next takeover target in the wake of the Sandoz-Ciba-Geigy merger, writes Magnus Grimond.

Shares in Roche Holding, the Swiss drugs giant which has long been favourite to bid for Zeneca, fell as dealers anticipated it launching a bid as a consolation prize to losing out in the merger of its Swiss rivals.

The 90p rise in Zeneca's share price to £13.77 came in spite of the group's own defiant declaration of independence. Unveiling profits for 1995 at the top end of analysts' expectations, the chief executive, David Barnes, dismissed talk of throwing in his lot with a bigger company. "As far as we are concerned, our policy is to drive the business, which clearly has potential for substantial growth, as far and as hard as possible."

Analysts warned that Zeneca, now valued at £12.5bn by the market, would be expensive at these levels. One said: "To the extent that they are smaller than some of the bigger companies, they are a target. But at this sort of price, it makes it very difficult to justify any sort of takeover. I think a merger is much more likely."

The market welcomed the company's figures, which showed underlying profits rising 15 per cent to £878m in the year to December, and news of plans to divest two underperforming activities. An agreement has been signed with Sun Chemical Corporation of the US to sell the specialty inks business for \$62m, while discussions are taking place with a number of parties for the disposal of the textile colours op-

have broken through the £2bn mark, sending profits before exceptional 9 per cent ahead to £687m. US sales growth at 10 per cent outpaced the market by 4 percentage points, led by Zeneca's best-selling Zestril blood pressure and heart drug.

Exceptional items of £259m had been foreshadowed in previous announcements. Of the total, £197m related to a goodwill write-off on the sale of the seeds stake and a further £65m concerned to a restructuring programme unveiled earlier this year.

The company revealed that 550 jobs out of a total workforce of 31,500 would be lost as a result of the rationalisation. In the UK, 370 jobs are to go, principally as a result of the Laser Project to rationalise the manufacturing and supply chain.

Rhine, killing fish and contaminating water as far away as the North Sea.

The 1990s has again been a period of diversification, involving buying investments in two American biotechnology companies – Genetech and Therapy Systemix.

Today, some 45 per cent of sales come from pharmaceuticals; 18 per cent from nutrition products; 14 per cent from chemicals and the rest from agroproducts, seeds, and construction and environmental chemicals.

*Additional reporting by Bloomberg*

## Ladbroke talks with US Hilton

TOM STEVENSON

City Editor

A deal between Ladbroke and Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US looks increasingly likely after it emerged yesterday that chief executive Peter George has been holding talks with Steve Bollenbach, the new head of the American hotel group.

Mr George is eager to forge links between Ladbroke's Hilton International subsidiary and the US business from which it was spun off in the 1960s. Such a deal could pre-empt the bid for Ladbroke which the market believes Bass or Whitbread is

having. "Something is happening," he said. "There may not be a feel-good factor but there is a 'feel-not-so-bad' factor."

Confirming the improved chance of a deal with Hilton Corp, Mr George said: "Bollenbach thinks the chances of co-operation. He recognises that our sharing the same brand name means there must be benefits in doing things together." This could involve co-operation on sales and marketing or it could go further.

Ladbroke announced disappointing figures for the 12 months to December. Group profits of £121.3m were down on 1994's £128.5m, despite higher profits from Hilton. Gaming and betting saw a collapse from

£97.7m to £58.1m as the National Lottery hammered profits at Vennors pools and Ladbroke betting shops.

An announcement of the profits fall coincided with a call from the betting industry to the government to level the playing field with the lottery. Philip Jarrold, managing director of Vennors, told Parliament's National Heritage Committee that the company had cut back its workforce to 625 from over 1,000 in re-

Eager for US links: chief executive Peter George

sponse to the lottery, Ladbroke took an exceptional charge of £25.9m last year, including £2.7m of reorganisation costs in betting and gaming operations.

A further 100 jobs were cut yesterday

broke bid  
rate from water  
clear sell-off  
JEREMY MARKER

21  
22  
23

THE INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 8 MARCH 1996

# business

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

### City gambles on Ladbroke bid

No one will be too worried by yesterday's pretty dismal figures from Ladbroke, the Hilton hotels to Vernons pools to betting shops group. The real investment interest in the company lies in guessing if a bid is on the way, who will make it and what they will be prepared to pay.

If it doesn't materialise, attention will focus on whether the company can stick up a deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation, which owns the US hotels. Under new boss Steve Bollenbach the American business is known to be keen to forge at the very least a world-wide marketing link with the international arm it now regrets selling off.

Chief executive Peter George has done a reasonable job in clearing up the mess left by his predecessors, selling Texas Homecare to Sainsbury and winding down the ill-conceived property portfolio, but many of the problems he faces at Ladbroke are out of his control.

Profits for the year to December of £121.3m were bang in line with expectations £7.2m below 1994's pre-exceptional number and, as forecast, clobbered by the impact of the National Lottery on the betting side. Earnings per share of 7.46p, again before exceptions, only just covered an unchanged dividend of 6p.

Last year really was a game of two halves for Ladbroke. The Hilton hotels business moved nicely ahead from £126.8m to £150.2m, with occupancy edging ahead from 66.8 per cent to 69 per cent, driven by the buoyant London market. It was a nice cushion, but not enough to make up for a disastrous 12 months for gaming and betting.

There were problems across the division, with retail betting and Vernons suffering from the introduction of scratch cards, credit betting (accounts for overseas high-rollers) stumping after a strong 1994 and profit in America failing to keep up with rising sales. Overall the division saw profits collapse from £97.7m to £58.1m.

Elsewhere in the group, profits from the property portfolio were sharply reduced from £22m to £23m as buildings are gradually disposed of. That unhappy adventure should be history within a couple of years.

So what is Ladbroke really worth?

Break-up valuations of more than 200p have been touted which provides some support if you believe a bid from, say, Bass or Whitbread is a possibility.

If not, analysts believe some sort of

marketing deal with Hilton Corp

underpins the current share price, even if on a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 20 the shares, down 0.5p at 183.5p, are expensive on fundamental measures. Hold on for the inevitable developments.

#### Arjo bears scars of price war

The paper industry is notoriously volatile, subject to wild swings in paper prices and dramatic shifts in demand. Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French group, failed to escape those gyrations last year and has spent much of the last six months warning on profits.

Arjo's problem is that it has been faced with a slump in demand as customers used up stocks while they waited for the soaring price of paper to fall. The first half was decent enough but demand then deteriorated as de-stocking continued.

Yesterday's full-year figures bore the battle scars. Pre-exceptional profits fell by just 10 per cent to £207m. But half of that was wiped out by charges of

£120m relating to last November's restructuring of the European operations.

The difficulties have continued in the early months of this year. Sales volumes are still weak and prices are coming under increased pressure. Though the worst of the de-stocking appears to be over in Europe, the slowing of some economies such as France, Germany and North America is likely to delay an upturn.

On the bright side, the pulp price is finally beginning to fall which will help Arjo's margins. Pulp prices reached more than \$1,000 per tonne last autumn and the price has been falling steadily to \$600. It is not clear how much further it has to fall but at the bottom of the last cycle pulp prices went as low as \$400.

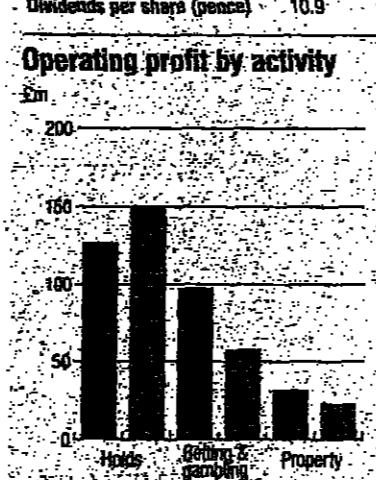
The good news for Arjo is that though it has been ravaged by the cyclical it looks reasonably well placed for an upturn. It has a good geographic spread and has been expanding into the "added value" coated paper market via the acquisition of the Newton Falls mill in the US last year. This will balance the group's interest in the mature but still cash generative carbonless paper market.

With analysts forecasting profits of

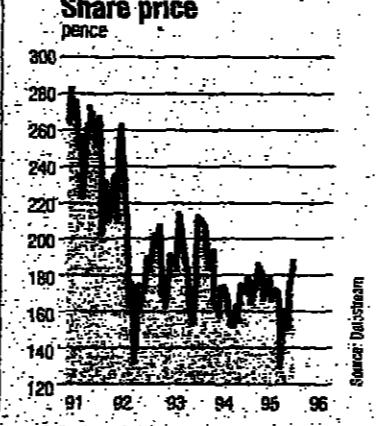
#### Ladbroke : at a glance

Market value: £2.14bn, share price 183.5p

| Five-Year record            | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pre-tax profits (£m)        | 142  | 2.7  | 51.4 | 230  | 95.4 |
| EPS (pence)                 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 6.0  | 6.0  | 6.0  |
| Dividends per share (pence) |      |      |      |      |      |



#### Share price



around £185m this year the shares are on a forward rating of 14. They have, however, already enjoyed a significant bounce since the end of last year when they fell to 160p. Up 8p to 210p yesterday they are high enough.

#### Overseas boost for Sun Alliance

Sun Alliance closed a better-than-expected insurance reporting season yesterday on a positive note, with 1995 operating profits up 59 per cent at £480m. The market was particularly cheered by the 43 per cent increase in net asset value to 415p, which helped fund a dividend increase at the top end of the range to 17.25p.

Even though Sun Alliance turned an underwriting profit in its core British market, despite increased competition, the real bright spot in these results was the steady growth of overseas business, which now accounts for over 50 per cent of premium income compared with 23 per cent in 1988. Underwriting results in Europe and Australia outpaced expectations.

In 1995, Sun Alliance's life assurance premiums were almost flat at £1.26bn, while shareholders' profits increased to £94m from £72m. The company believes the worst of the problems facing the industry in the UK are over, reflected in a year-on-year rise in both single and new annual premiums so far in 1996, after a good final quarter in 1995. On the general insurance side, premiums increased to £3.6bn from £3.4bn, and the underwriting result showed a much improved loss of £31m compared with £127m last time.

What sets Sun Alliance apart from other composites is its determined build-up of a sizeable war chest. The solvency margin was up to 82 per cent at the end of last year. The group is on the prowl in the Far East and Europe, possibly the US, and would not turn up its nose at a life mutual here at home.

Given its lack of premium income relative to its rivals, and the prospective loss of business from former partners the Halifax in the UK and Chubb in the US, pressure is growing to make an acquisition. There is certainly value in the shares, with a prospective yield of 5.8 per cent, but with an acquisition looming, and the UK underwriting cycle heading downwards, don't expect fireworks.

John Willcock CITY DIARY

### Does Marketing Malaise rot your underpants?

"It's time to shrug off the British Marketing Malaise," said Sir Michael Perry, chairman of Unilever, yesterday in his keynote speech at the City University Business School.

Can this be the same Unilever that presided over the so-called "rotting Y-trots" saga, when a rival company showed that Unilever's Persil Power could cause damage to clothing?

Sir Michael said that whatever Britain's role would be by the millennium, it would be determined by marketing.

Perhaps a little market testing would be in order as well.

Mrs Beetox - management guru. The London Business School is championing the 19th century authoress, who

just four years later, which certainly teaches a lesson about Getting On With It.

Princess Diana is to head a charity funded by people donating 10 per cent of their windfalls from building society conversions. If freelance butter Michael Hardern wrote to the Princess's press representative Jane Atkinson last weekend about the scheme, which he reckons could raise around £5m for good causes,

He has already formed a lobby group, Members of Conversion, which is urging all remaining societies to convert and shower their members with one-off payments. Currently Mr Hardern is pursuing a scheme to get five sympathisers on to the board of Nationwide Building Society, which remains resolutely mutual.

Any charity scheme would have to receive the money automatically on conversion. Mr Hardern stressed, "Once people get their sticky hands on the money they tend not to want to hand it back."

The world of shooting collided with that of oil at the Turf Club in London's Carlton House Terrace last night. Britain's oil moguls like shooting together since they all have stakes in each other's oil rigs and Scottish grouse moors are conveniently close to the North Sea oil fields.

The first ever Annual Shooters' Supper was attended by 34 moguls, and amid the talk of buckshot they made a number of awards. Colin Moynihan, the former sports and energy minister, was voted "most boring guest". "Dresser of the year" was John Kennedy, chief executive of Dresser Industries, which builds oil rigs. Russell Harvey, head of Lasmo North Sea, won "Shot of the year" and Graham Hearn, chairman of Enterprise Oil, was voted "host of the year".

### Cookson keeps up pace of recovery with 50% rise

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

The dramatic recovery at the circuit board to ceramics group Cookson continued in 1995 as strong sales growth and margin improvement sent profits and cash flowing.

Richard Oster, chief executive, said: "Global expansion, a clear focus on new product development and customer service have enabled the group to grow its major businesses despite the increasingly competitive environment."

Pre-tax profits jumped 50 per cent to £181m (£121m) after a 15 per cent rise in sales to £1.8bn was compounded by a widening in operating margin from 9 per cent to 11.1 per cent.

That rise meant the company was able to pay a final dividend 18 per cent higher at 4.5p to give a full-year payout 14 per cent better at 8p. Cookson's shares, which have tripled in value over the past four years, closed 7p lower at 318p as the market paused for breath after the past year's strong out-performance.

The biggest surprise to analysts was a big swing in Cook-

son's cash flow, which saw it generate £50m compared with last year's £17m absorption. That put Cookson on track to meet its target of generating £500m over the next four years from debt and internal cash flow for investment in its four main business units.

Mr Oster said the key to Cookson's success over the past few years was a constant drive to create new products. He estimated that a quarter of the company's profits in five years' time would come from products not yet in existence.

Electronics, which makes circuit boards and is one of Cookson's fastest-growing markets, saw profit rise 52 per cent to £80m as demand from computer, mobile phone and car

manufacturers remained high. The company estimates that the electronic content of cars will double over the next 10 years, maintaining the division's momentum.

In ceramics, the refractories business continued to grow faster than the steel industry it mainly serves by taking market share.

The ceramics supplies business, a joint venture with Johnson Matthey, also made good progress in its first year of trading.

Thanks to the group's cash generation and a £193m rights issue a year ago at 175p the balance sheet remained strong, with gearing at the year end down to 6 per cent from 36 per cent 12 months earlier.

#### Rolls-Royce bullish as profits take off

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine and industrial power group, reported a sharp rise in profits yesterday as the company forecast that the airline industry was at last picking up after five years of recession.

After reporting a 74 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £175m for last year, chairman Sir Ralph Robins said that the company was seeing growth in its important markets and had captured a greater share of the commercial engine market.

There has been speculation that RR was selling its big Trent engine at below cost in order to win lucrative spares sales, but Sir Ralph denied this.

RR said it was closing the gap on rival US engine-makers General Electric and Pratt & Whitney. RR captured nearly

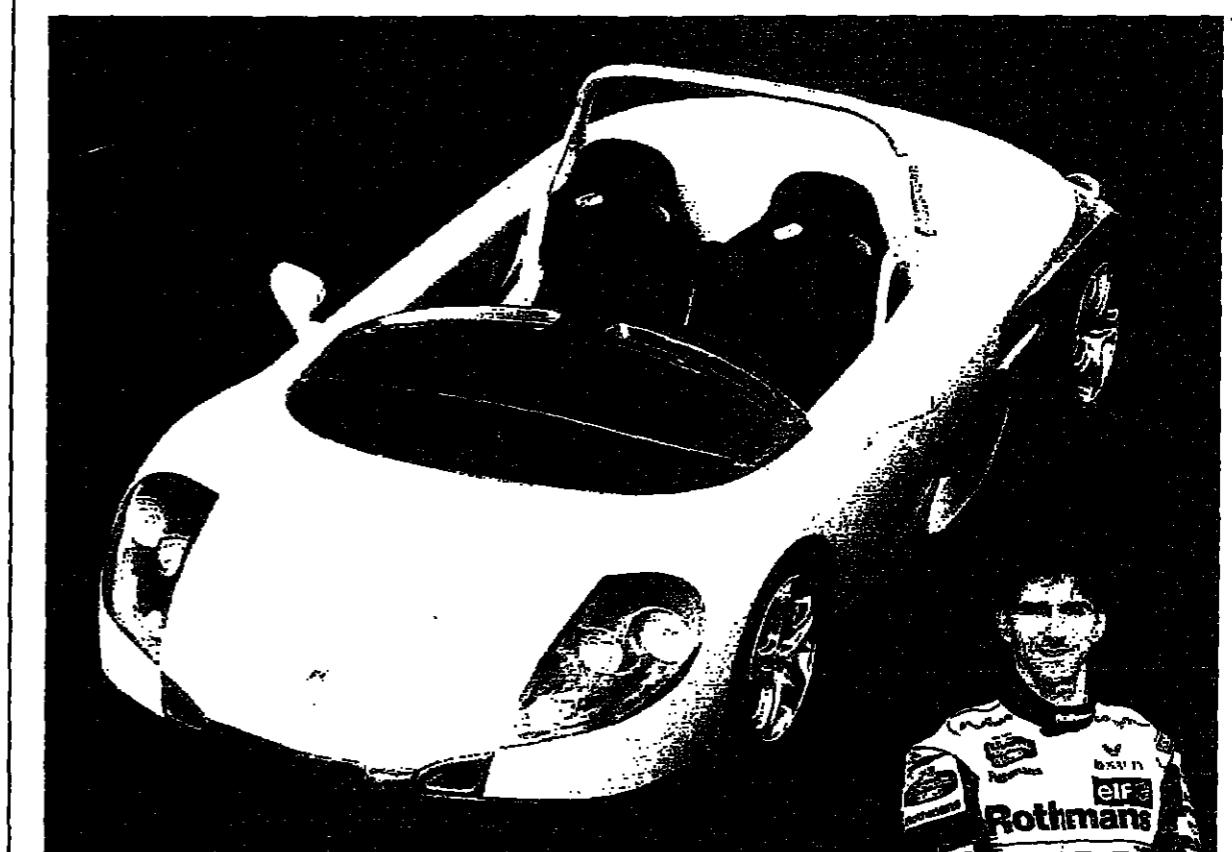
|                    | Turnover £      | Pre-tax £      | EPS            | Dividend        |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Arjo Wiggins (F)   | 3.75bn (2.92bn) | 72.0m (21.7m)  | 2.3p (1.7p)    | 7.5p (7.5p)     |
| GKN (F)            | 3.00bn (3.05bn) | 322m (330m)    | 53.3p (29.3p)  | 24.0p (21.5p)   |
| IMI (F)            | 1.32m (1.15m)   | 87.2m (50.3m)  | 16.4p (6p)     | 11.5p (10.5p)   |
| Ladbroke (F)       | 3.95bn (3.41bn) | 95.4m (-23.0m) | 5.14p (-3.57p) | 6p (6p)         |
| More O'Ferrall (F) | 87.3m (73.8m)   | 15.0m (9.5m)   | 2.5p (1.6p)    | 1.5p (1.3p)     |
| Rolls-Royce (F)    | 2.21bn (2.16bn) | 175m (101m)    | 10.5p (5.56p)  | 5p (5p)         |
| Sun Alliance (F)   | - (1)           | 546m (547m)    | 48.4p (30.8p)  | 17.25p (15.75p) |
| Zeneca (F)         | 4.90bn (4.48bn) | 619m (598m)    | 35.5p (46.8p)  | 31p (28.5p)     |

TECHNOLOGY TODAY.  
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE  
HELL'S GOING ON ?

THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

### Win Damon Hill's Renault Spider

with THE INDEPENDENT



We would like to give you the chance to win a unique open-top thoroughbred. Production of the Spider will be strictly limited, and your prize car will carry the Damon Hill seal of approval.

#### HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning our prize Renault Sport Spider you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the fourteen we are printing in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Today we are printing Token 13. Token 14, the final token, will be printed in tomorrow's Independent with the entry form. It must be completed and sent in with your tokens.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

As previously published.

Renault  
Spider

TOKEN 13



urge

## TRADING STOCK

Mount Hoyer, the  
British Nuclear Group, has  
experienced a series of  
problems during the last  
few years, but the best  
is yet to come. The  
group's financial problems  
are well known, but the  
group's political influence  
is also significant. The  
group's political influence  
is well known, but the  
group's political influence  
is also significant.

The group's political influence  
is well known, but the  
group's political influence  
is also significant. The  
group's political influence  
is well known, but the  
group's political influence  
is also significant.

# Big risks and a dubious deal for taxpayers in the nuclear sell-off

INDUSTRY VIEW  
PETER RODGERS

As investors are deluged  
over the coming months  
with information to persuade  
them to buy into the £2.6bn  
privatisation of British Energy  
this summer, a little historical  
perspective would go a long way.

Reading the impressive finan-

cial forecasts this week by

BZW, the Government's City

advisers, it is hard to remember

what a laughing stock the

nuclear generating and con-

struction industry has made

over much of the last three

decades.

Look at the record of Du-

ness B, one of the power sta-

tions investors are being asked

to buy. Though admittedly the

worst of the bunch, it has a claim

to be the biggest industrial dis-

aster in British history.

Important components of

the reactor did not fit when they

were brought on site, so the steel

lining had to be rebuilt at huge

expense. The contractor went

bankrupt, the whole sorry project

took nearly 20 years to finish -

six or seven years is the norm -

and after the station started op-

erating in 1983 weld problems

kept output low for many years.

As recently as last year fresh

problems with welds in the

pipework forced a shutdown and

lengthy repairs, making the com-

pany's boast a few months before

that the rogue

station had at last been tamed

appear decidedly premature.

The other six nuclear power  
stations of the same gas-cooled

generation have a mixed record.

Astonishingly, this small batch

of power stations was built to

four different designs and, as a

group, this has made them even

more of a chronic burden on the

power industry's technical re-

sources over the years than if

they had been all of a kind.

It was almost certainly the

blunders of the advanced gas-

cooled reactor programme, and

not the environmental lobby or

the scares resulting from foreign

nuclear accidents, that nearly

wiped out the British nuclear

engineering industry. These

AGR stations make up the

bulk of what is being offered for

sale.

History is bunk, the Depart-

ment of Trade and Industry and

its advisers might well say. How

very unfair to raise problems

that were long ago solved and

rub them in the faces of the ex-

cellent engineers who are now

running the plants up to record

levels of output.

British Energy and its compo-

nent parts, Nuclear Electric and

Scottish Nuclear, have spent five hard years since the

rest of the generating industry

was privatised making their

power stations more efficient

and preparing them for sale.

Nuclear Electric has also built

a £2.5bn American-designed

pressurised water reactor at

Sizewell B in Suffolk on time and

to cost. The industry is very dif-

ferent now.

This is certainly true. But the

chequered history is worth re-

peating as a useful reminder

that predictions by engineers

about long-term nuclear per-

formance ought to be taken with

a large pinch of salt, especially

when they are critical to the val-

uation of the company.

It so happens that one of the

key assumptions in BZW's fore-

casts is that the performance of

British Energy's power stations

will continue rising - to a level

that has never been seen before.

The brokers assume for their

forecasts that nuclear station

output as a percentage of maxi-

mum theoretical output over a

year will rise from the most re-

cent figure of 74.5 per cent to

a load factor of 82.5 per cent.

The difference between an 80

per cent and an 85 per cent load

factor - a mere 2.5 per cent ei-

ther side of the base case - repre-

sents a £70m variation in the

valuation of the company. It

would not take many more de-

fective welds for the whole

army to be shot to pieces.

This is, of course, a conven-

tional enough problem, which

investors face every time they

put money into an engineering

project. It has little to do with

better-known fears about nu-

clear power, such as the long-

term costs of decommissioning

reactors over periods of up to

135 years, radiation scares or the

threat of an accident.

Indeed BZW's achievement

in its number-crunching is that

it may have cleared away what

a year or two ago appeared the

bigger financial obstacle of all

to a privatisation, the long-

term cost of station decomis-

sioning and waste treatment.

British Energy will have an

unusual balance sheet, domi-

nated by frighteningly huge

provisions of £1.4bn for its long-

term liabilities.

This arithmetic protects cash

flow over the next decade and

therefore the all-important abil-

ity to pay a high and rising

stream of dividends, without

which the City will not buy

long-term liabilities.

For sophisticated investors

the accounting magic of the dis-

countrate rate has shrunk the cost

of technical or safety problems

cal and environmental issues

that they are - quite accept-

able proportions.

Even big changes in liabilities

can be from a collapse in the

price of electricity at which elec-

tricity is traded in the pool. If

it fell from 2.4p a kilowatt hour

to 2p, £750m would disappear

from the valuation.

The risks are not all one way.

If the electricity price rose to 2.7p

there would be an £850m boost

to the value of British Energy,

but there would be a bonus of

£700m if there were a bonus of



# Imperial leads Irish fling

**Eddie Wiley** on the colourful but hazardous exploits of the trainer who saddles a top challenger for Tuesday's Gold Cup

The green bunting and plastic shamrocks that bloom each March heralding St Patrick's Day always bring a smile to the Irish. But the smile in many Irish eyes has nothing to do with the simple reptile exterminator but rather that the sprouting of early green foretells another, some would say more important, festival held in the foothills of the Cotswolds.

Helping the Irish racing fraternity grin this year are the training skills of a fellow Celt, Fergus "Fergie" Sutherland, and the precocious talent of his Cheltenham Gold Cup contender, Imperial Call.

Sutherland is essentially a modest man. From a well-to-do Scottish family his abiding maxim has been "to let the horse do the talking". And Imperial Call, the seven-year-old young Turk of Irish racing, was especially vulnerable at last month's Irish Gold Cup meeting at Leopardstown.

The ambient level of distractingly chit-chat in the press box was suspended and replaced by querulous raised eyebrows at his six-length win over last year's Cheltenham champion, Master Oats. While some occupied themselves with

the aftermath of the race,

the vagaries of chance influence everybody's life at some juncture but it was a very potent intrusion of circumstances that brought an Eton and Sandhurst-educated career officer to train horses from a small village in West Cork.

His father was commander of the Black Watch in the Great War but his own military career was abruptly ended in the Korean War.

A lieutenant with the 5th Dragoon Guards, he was injured in an explosion and lost his left leg. "Going up a hill, one of the four troops I was with tripped the wire of a land mine and set off the blast,"

Sutherland recalls. "I was the only one badly injured. One of the troops said: 'You're okay Mr Fergie, it's only the leg.' I knew that because I had already checked."

A lifelong horseman, the courage of the man is typified in that he just recently gave up

hunting with the Muskerry pack. "I'd always ridden horses so I invented a peg that I could stick in the stirrup. I had to pack it in when my other knee went." This is an abiding testimony to the youthful summers spent at Porlock in Somerset, where he learned his horsemanship. It is also a testimony to his mentor there - Dick Hern, who half a century later remains one of Sutherland's closest friends.

After Korea he returned to England and worked in the stables of Geoffrey Brooke in Newmarket, where his contemporaries included Peter Walwyn. Sutherland went on to work with Joe Lawson, who won a Derby with Never Say Die, and after Lawson retired, Sutherland's father purchased the stable for his son.

Thus, at the beginning of the Sixties, Sutherland was training

on his own. Success came early and he won the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot in his first season.

But hunting was his abiding

passion and circumstances again contrived to present him

with an unexpected opportunity. His mother wanted to sell her home in Killamarish, Co Cork, but Sutherland, familiar with the area's hunting and racing connections, asked her to keep it. After remarriage caused him to leave Newmarket it was he who would be a contender for the 1996 Gold Cup and I didn't want to muck it up asking him to do too much too soon."

And for those who hope that Imperial Call and his regular rider, Conor O'Dwyer, can answer the call this time, Sutherland has some significant words: "One Man is rated the best in England, 5lb higher than our horse who is the highest-rated in Ireland. After Cheltenham I expect those ratings to be reversed."

It has been an unlikely journey that has brought Sutherland to Cheltenham as the trainer of the second favourite for the Gold Cup, but there is a suspicion that those confident words might ring true. Sutherland may not need to repeat them on Thursday evening. By then the horse will have done the talking.

Imperial Call was bought for Lisselan Farms from the Co Clare-based Tom Costello as a three-year-old. That Costello has already sold on three previous Gold Cup winners in Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

Imperial Call was bought for

Lisselan Farms from the Co

Clare-based Tom Costello as

a three-year-old. That Costello

has already sold on three pre-

vious Gold Cup winners in

Midnight Court, Cool Ground

and the Tote, cut from his greatest challenge.

## sport

# The battle of the peacocks

If politics is war by other means, what on earth does that make cricket? India play Pakistan at Bangalore tomorrow at a time when gunfire rattles across the border in disputed Kashmir most days, a time when both countries, like peacocks flossing their tail feathers, are tensing their nuclear muscles. Neither side would have chosen this stage as their battleground: the organisers in particular were praying for a tumultuous India-Pakistan finale. But here we are. All those conspiracy theorists who presumed that the wily sub-continent would orchestrate a grand climax to the competition will have to bite their tongues for a while.

One thing is clear, though. Many of the millions of cricket fans in India and Pakistan will be happy to lose the tournament if they can just win this one match. The fraught relations between the two nations, ever since they were wrenches apart by partition 49 years ago, mean that the play really isn't the thing. Stand by, this weekend, for a barrage of military

epithets: here comes Waqar Younis booming in like a missile launcher; there goes Tendulkar again, hitting it like a shell, or Inzamam on the rampage. Count how many times the word "gladiatorial" comes up.

The players are giddy enough. Two years ago, in Sharjah, they walked out holding hands like children on a nature trail, in an ostentatious gesture of togetherness. And at the beginning of this tournament they had no trouble forming a combined team to play Sri Lanka. But no one else can ignore the historic animosity that charges these matches. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since partition released 10 million vengeful refugees into the subcontinent. The Pakistanis, who were vociferously scornful of Australia's decision to avoid Sri Lanka, have twice cancelled tours to India (in 1992 and 1993) because of the threat from Hindu supremacists. Only this week, there were calls for

the Pakistan players to be barred from entering the country.

But they are not ducking out of this one, and the security presence in Bangalore is, not surprisingly, huge: machine guns, sniffer dogs, the works.

There have also been threats to dig up the pitch – no easy task, on these hard-baked bowler's graveyards. The response has been, well, typical. When tickets went on sale on Sunday 60,000 people beat a path to the stadium; many of them camped out for the night. In three hours 45,000 tickets were snapped up, and there were scuffles when the crowd sensed that large blocks of seats were being withheld for last-minute VIPs.

It is not as if this match was a regular event. Pakistan have not played in India for nine years (since 1987, when they won a Test match in, as it happens, Bangalore). India even boycotted the annual one-day tussle in Sharjah after Pakistan beat them with the help of

three consecutive lbw decisions. The *Times of India* modestly referred to the match as one between "Cricketing Gods" and concluded, with a nod to India's two recent defeats: "may the worse side win".

This first quarter-final of the World Cup is also – as if it mattered – the start of the tournament proper. The first match which both sides have to win. In a nice twist to the clean religious divide between the teams, India's captain – Mohammed Azharuddin – is a Muslim. He even got into trouble once with his own mullahs for attaching his own sacred first name to a Reebok shoe. There really could not be more at stake. Who said cricket was boring?

On paper, Pakistan might just have the edge (India's game plan so far has been for the other side to drop catches, and it has been only partly successful). But this match is on grass, and Indian grass at that, so it would be churlish to predict an out-



Michael Atherton, the England captain, warms up in the nets at Karachi for tomorrow's World Cup quarter-final against Sri Lanka. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Alsport

OK OLIVER. NOW, CAN YOU TRANSFER ME TO KEN?

SURE, MR CONNOLLY.

THINKS... HOW DO I TRANSFER A CALL? I'D BETTER TRY THE OLD HANDKERCHIEF TRICK...

HI MR CONNOLLY. KEN HERE.

MERCURY CAN HELP YOU SORT OUT THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAPPEN WHEN HUMAN BEINGS MEET TECHNOLOGY.

HI KEN! THOSE ENGLISH LESSONS MUST BE REALLY PAYING OFF – YOU'RE LOSING THAT MALAYSIAN ACCENT.

5 MALAYSIAN?

**MERCURY** COMMUNICATIONS

When mankind meets machine, Mercury can help.

FreeCall 0500 500 400

Mercury Communications Limited, New Mercury House, 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4HQ.  
http://www.mercury.co.uk

A MEMBER OF THE CABLE & WIRELESS GROUP

## Sri Lankans rise above the conflict

Derek Pringle on why England should not underestimate their World Cup opponents

For a small strife-torn island off the southern tip of India, Sri Lanka certainly packs an almighty punch on the cricket field. Apart from setting new benchmarks for 50-over scores, they have proved to be sparkling role models for the smaller teams like Kenya and the Netherlands, showing them exactly what standards can be achieved in a very short space of time.

Minnows themselves when the first World Cup was played in 1975, they have since become the most talked-about team in the tournament. Not bad for a country that only had "Test" status bestowed upon them by the International Cricket Council in 1981. Yet, despite their perceived callowness, Sri Lanka have been thinking big for some time, recently approaching Ian Botham to become their coach.

When he declined, they asked Allan Border but, when he too proved unavailable, they settled for another Australian, the Victorian Test player, Dave Whatmore.

Colombo-born but raised in Australia, Whatmore began to hone both their cricket and their competitive edge. It is an appointment that has clearly paid dividends, with Sri Lanka winning not only their first Test abroad, but their first series too, soundly beating Pakistan 2-1 last October.

An abundance of talent has never been Sri Lanka's problem. Their cricket has been intermittently held back by the kind of internal bickering that makes the politics within Pakistani cricket seem positively acquiescent by comparison.

Who but Sri Lanka could go backwards after Siddhath Weeratum's double century had so boldly announced their arrival at Lord's in 1984, and the late 1980s were as bleak on the cricket field as they were on the islands' battlefields. The civil war most recently saw the withdrawal of both Australia and the West Indies from their World Cup matches in Sri Lanka, after a massive car bomb exploded in Colombo.

However, with Duleep Mendis once more installed as team manager to quell the off-field disputes, Sri Lanka have once more cast off their rookie status. In fact their captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, is the longest-serving Test player in the World Cup, and their current one-day experience far exceeds England's, with six of their players able to claim over a hundred caps to their name. As Ranatunga himself recently said: "We can beat any Test nation in the one-day game."

The primary reason for that stems from the fearless strokeplay of their batsmen which, despite the brilliance of their fielding, is often at full stretch to make up for the deficiencies in the bowling department – which, like England's, is steady rather than spectacular.

Mind you, the discovery of Chaminda Vaas, a left-arm opening bowler, has reduced their reliance upon spin which is just as well, considering their leading spinner and sole Tamil, the seemingly treble-jointed Muttiah Muralitharan, has had question marks raised over the legitimacy of his action.

Vaas can swing the ball both ways at a brisk enough pace to cause problems and many thought him the best pace bowler on either side, in the recent series against Australia.

There is no doubt they are a talented team and a major one-day force. Before the current tournament, Sri Lanka had lost 20 of their 26 World Cup matches since 1975. If they can win three more, starting with the game on Saturday, their status as minnows will be forgotten forever.

## All Stevenage fans at Torquay now

Non-League notebook  
RUPERT METCALF

The supporters and employees of Torquay United are taking an increasing interest in the fortunes of Stevenage Borough, the GM Vauxhall Conference leaders. In their current position, 12 points adrift at the bottom of the Endsleigh League, Torquay need all the help they can get – and success for Stevenage represents their best hope of staying in the Third Division.

The problem for Stevenage is that, like Macclesfield last season and Kidderminster the year before, if they win the Conference they will not be promoted to the Football League because their stadium did not meet League requirements before the deadline at the end of last year. The main League requirements are a capacity of 6,000 and 1,000 seats under cover.

"It's completely unfair," Victor Green, the Stevenage chairman,

said yesterday. "We still have not had a satisfactory reason from the Football League for the deadline being 31 December when we can give a concrete guarantee that our ground will be ready by the start of next season." Their Broadhall Way ground is owned by the local council, which is investing over £1m in improving the stadium.

"The League is taking away the basic ingredient of sport by stopping achievement," Green said. "Promotion and relegation are what football is all about." His club have a three-point advantage and a game in hand over second-placed Macclesfield.

The Stevenage chairman added that three clubs – Barnet, Darlington and Rochdale – do not fulfil the League's ground requirements. "They have a further two seasons to put things right," he complained, "unlike us." Like Macclesfield and Kidderminster in the recent past, however, his protests may fall on deaf ears.

# Venables promotes 'dirty word'

## Football

GLENN MOORE

Terry Venables returned from Dortmund yesterday preaching the gospel according to Ajax and seeking further converts.

The England coach was an impressed spectator as the Dutch and European champions strolled to a 2-0 European Cup quarter-final first leg win at Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday afternoon. Afterwards, he said the English game, and his national team, should be striving to emulate Ajax. He also said it was an attainable goal.

"It is amazing that they are the best club team in the world, but no one copies them," he said. "It can be done. The intelligence comes from the coach, the information is passed on. It is like a teacher at school."

"We can do it. We do not reach for perfection. Yet, if you do that, you get excellence. If you aim for half, you do not even get that."

I have no doubt you can do it fairly quickly. If you change something, you need success early on. I was fortunate at Barcelona. I changed everything and my first result was 3-0 away to Madrid. From then on they thought I was right—before they thought I was mad."

The Ajax way, in which players are inculcated in the club philosophy from the age of eight, is well known but Venables noted that Jari Litmanen, the Finn, and the Nigerians Finidi George and Nwankwo Kanu "have been there only two years. The Portuguese, the Spanish, the Italians are equally technically blessed, but strategically the Dutch are ahead. They know the game."

That point was superbly illustrated by Rudi Gullit during Sky TV's coverage of Monday's Newcastle-Manchester United match. The Dutchman raised the often discredited art of football punditry to a new level.

Gullit's career also exemplifies another Venables observation on the Dutch: "They have skill and intelligence, and they want to put that 'dirty' word in hard work. There are not many great players who do not work hard."

Kidology – or genuine? Either way, Venables is unlikely to be diverted from attempting to turn English artisans into Dutch masters.

## Heath returns to take charge at Turf Moor

Adrian Heath became the manager of Burnley yesterday just three months after leaving Turf Moor, writes Guy Hodgson. The 35-year-old former Everton striker succeeds Jimmy Mullen, who resigned last month after crowd demonstrations and a hate campaign.

Heath had been assistant manager under Howard Kendall at Sheffield United, said: "I have never known a town to have so much affection for its club. The expectations are high and the potential is enormous."

Oldham have signed Sheffield United's midfield player John Gannon on a free transfer, while Sunderland are willing to listen to offers for striker Brett Angell, who cost £600,000 from Everton last season.

Zuddersfield are poised to complete the £150,000 signing of the Crewe striker Rob Edwards. The 26-year-old, who has scored 21 goals for the Alex this season, is only on a week-to-week contract, having turned down a longer deal.

their socks off look at [Dennis] Bergkamp [who practised volleys for 20 minutes after training last week before scoring from one against QPR] and Gullit. It is not an accident they keep producing these players.

"We live in a society where there has been the minimum amount of work, while expecting the best and actually falling behind. We get a lot of television money and what do the clubs do with it? They give the players three times as much—but they have not got any better. We have got to strive to achieve."

He is encouraged by meetings with the managers who had been in Europe to discuss what went on in other games. "Clubs have tried to change a bit and it is only for the better that we get together. As soon as you ask the questions 'are we good enough?' and 'can we improve?' we are on the way to doing so. In the past we felt we were good enough."

On a similar theme, Venables said he had found his get-togethers, in which he has time to impart his ideas without the pressure of producing a victory at the end of it, more useful than the matches.

Venables said he was still looking at systems for Euro 96. "I want us to be able to play in two or three ways, so I can change it if things are going wrong. I do not think anything is beyond the group of players."

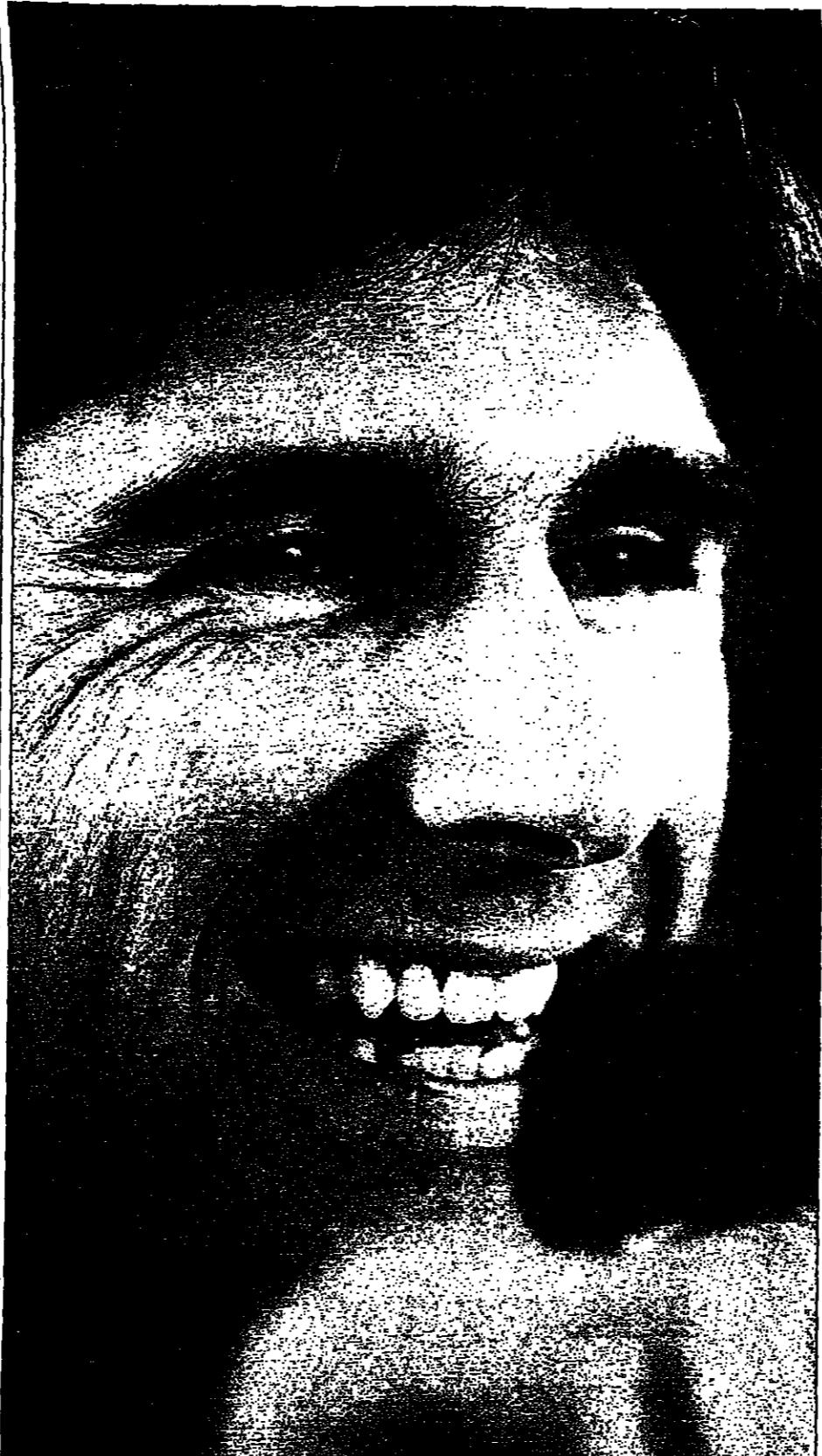
Also in Dortmund was Bert Vogts, the German national coach, who watched gloomily as Borussia were dissected. Venables described Borussia as "prehistoric"—a phrase which was only slightly updated by another national manager, Switzerland's Arthur Jorge, when talking about England.

Jorge, who has recently taken over from Roy Hodgson, said of England's 3-1 win over the Swiss in October: "When they played ancient football they played very well and they gave the Swiss a lot of problems. When they tried to play European style, they were not difficult to contain."

Kidology – or genuine? Either way, Venables is unlikely to be diverted from attempting to turn English artisans into Dutch masters.

**MOTOR RACING:** Williams' No 1 driver faces a 'make or break' season. Derick Allsop reports

# Hill races towards the crossroads



A relaxed Damon Hill looks forward to the start of the 1996 season in Melbourne: 'If I wasn't doing it, I wouldn't mind being a spectator this season' Photograph: Empics

A widely held belief is that this could prove the most open contest for years, another that Damon Hill has it on a plate. The British driver may be forgiven for thinking he cannot win, but no matter how studiously he plays down the issue, he knows he has to.

Anything short of the Formula One world championship this year could end his dream of the title for ever.

Over the past two seasons, Hill has endeavoured to show not only that he is a match for Michael Schumacher, but also that he is worthy of entering the same arena. He has waged his campaign against a backdrop of doubts that he has the talent and the mental durability. Worse still for the 35-year-old, many of those doubts have been raised within his own camp.

And so we arrive at the starting line for a new season—in Melbourne on Sunday—with Hill apparently confronting two possible routes: one to the championship, the other to the sack.

It has to be said that if this genuinely is the case, then Williams-Renault were perhaps irresponsible in entrusting him with what amounts to their main prospect of success. They do, after all, have the best car and may feel they ought to have had the drivers' championship in each of the past two years. Such a team should have absolute faith in their driver.

They were not, however, prepared to meet Schumacher's financial demands for this year, and whatever their interest in Jean Alesi, Gerhard Berger, Heinz-Harald Frentzen or anyone else, they kept Hill and replaced David Coulthard with the IndyCar champion, Jacques Villeneuve.

Hill has done his best to bury the theory of his "make or break" season beneath the mound of conjecture which habitually accompanies every facet of this cloistered environment.

Williams, for their part, have done their utmost to present a united front.

For every mistimed tackle and wayward pass by Hill, Williams have been guilty of naive tactics and sloppy teamwork. Both have publicly acknowledged their failings and resolved to remedy them.

Hill's personal preparations have been meticulous. He has driven impressively in winter testing, trained diligently and, possibly most importantly, overhauled his mental approach.

For a start, he takes the view he has not been an abject failure so far. "Yes, I want to improve myself because I didn't win the championship last year and that has made me more determined to win it this time," he said.

"But last year was not a total disaster. I proved myself to be a contender for the championship for the second year running. I have the best record in wins and poles to start ratios of anyone competing in Formula One."

His current multi-million pound contract and his new home—overlooking Killiney Bay in the Republic of Ireland—also serve to put his "failure" into perspective.

Even before last season had finished, Hill was bemoaning the fact he had not been assured No 1 status over Villeneuve, which he felt yielded the advantage to Schumacher, the undisputed senior driver at Benetton-Renault then and Ferrari now.

## TOMORROW

Damon Hill begins a series of articles for the Independent by looking ahead to the 1996 championship campaign. The Williams driver will be giving his verdict on each grand prix throughout the season.

The returned, positive Hill said: "I'm confident in myself that I can win grands prix this season, but there's going to be competition. There's no way round that. Jacques is, I think, going to be a very good ingredient for the team. He's a good personality, he's quick, and he's going to make an impression no question about it. He may well have the best first season of any team in each of the past two years. Such a team should have absolute faith in their driver."

They were not, however, prepared to meet Schumacher's financial demands for this year, and whatever their interest in Jean Alesi, Gerhard Berger, Heinz-Harald Frentzen or anyone else, they kept Hill and replaced David Coulthard with the IndyCar champion, Jacques Villeneuve.

"But I've got more experience of Formula One, which I think I can put to good use. This is my fourth season and I can hopefully put it all together to really bring out the best in myself."

How, though, will he cope with Schumacher? Is it possible he will not have to, such as have been the pre-season problems at Ferrari. But Hill maintains he will not allow himself to be drawn into verbal sparring this season and is not about to drop his guard.

For every mistimed tackle and wayward pass by Hill, Williams have been guilty of naive tactics and sloppy teamwork. Both have publicly acknowledged their failings and resolved to remedy them.

"I'm going to concentrate on myself from now on," Hill said. "But I find it hard to believe Michael and Ferrari won't be a serious threat. The investment they've made is stupendous and

the personnel they've gathered will provide them with all the information they need for an extremely competitive operation."

Hill has declared peace with Schumacher and everyone else. Most significantly, he appears to be at peace with himself.

He is, though, anxious for the kind of flying start that propelled Britain's last champion, Nigel Mansell, also in a Williams, towards his goal four years ago. It would firmly establish his rank in the team and give him breathing space before Schumacher and Villeneuve built their expected momentum later in the season.

The more immediate and sustained threat could come from Jean Alesi or Gerhard Berger, the new Benetton pair. Mika Hakkinen's form in testing for McLaren-Mercedes suggests he, too, may be quickly out of the blocks.

"Benetton are going to be hard to beat and I think it will be a very broad contest," Hill said. "I don't envisage a domination by any one individual. The regulations, in reducing the opportunity for a huge performance advantage for any one team, have closed up the competition."

"We saw some fantastic, incredibly close racing last year and that's what people want to see. If people don't turn on the goggle-box then Formula One racing is going to fizz out and I'm going to be out of a job. We are there to show off our skills. If I wasn't doing it, I wouldn't mind being a spectator this season."

But then he is doing it and, as most of the sport's followers are saying, he has to do it this time.

"Well, I'm nothing if not resolute," he said. "It's taken me I don't know how many years to get in to Formula One, and in the past three years I've finished third, second, second. There's also a new resolve within the team, a real togetherness."

"We are much better prepared as a team and I, as an individual, am much better prepared. It's mental as well as physical. They go hand in glove. Of course the championship is my goal. But you can't promise any more than to try to do your best."

Whether his best will be good enough depends on the reliability of the Ferrari, the ability of Benetton to rise to the challenge of life without Schumacher, and Hill's authority over Villeneuve.

The reality cannot be ignored: This is the Englishman's best and possibly last chance.

## Murdoch 'could pull the plug'

### Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The Rugby League has admitted for the first time that Rupert Murdoch could scrap his contract with them if he fails to get the go-ahead for Super League in Australia.

That confirmation of fears surrounding the future of the game came in court in Sydney, where a lawyer representing the British League said that the plug could be pulled on Super League in Europe.

Alec Shand QC said that part of the agreement with Murdoch released another 7,000 seats for the European Championship match between England and the Netherlands at Wembley on 18 June, while Scotland's allocation for their match with England three days earlier has risen from 7,000 to 8,100.

The news coincided with the selling of the millionth ticket, which means 80 per cent of all seats have been bought three months in advance of the event.

grounds to scrap their contract.

That is a stunning admission that events in Australia pose a direct threat to the game here, something Lindsay has consistently denied. League sources yesterday tried to explain the admission away as courtroom histrionics.

Shand said that, without Murdoch's £87m, the fate of the game in Britain was "parlous" and that half the coun-

try's clubs could face extinction.

Lindsay has condemned the Australian Rugby League's efforts to have Super League banned worldwide—although it is not clear what jurisdiction an Australian court could have over the start of the competition here, which is due three weeks today.

The ARL's chairman, Ken Arthurson, had earlier dismissed proposals submitted by

### Hunte's comeback heartens the Saints

Alan Hunte, the Great Britain winger, will play his first match since last May when he appears at St Helens' Sili Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Widnes tomorrow.

Hunte said that, without Murdoch's £87m, the fate of the game in Britain was "parlous" and that half the coun-

try's clubs could face extinction.

Lindsay has condemned the Australian Rugby League's efforts to have Super League banned worldwide—although it is not clear what jurisdiction an Australian court could have over the start of the competition here, which is due three weeks today.

The ARL's chairman, Ken Arthurson, had earlier dismissed proposals submitted by

the British League to run Super League in Australia.

The League, he said, "could not promote blanket sales in Alaska."

"Just look at their record. In 100 years, the English Rugby League has succeeded in expanding the game no further than its origins in Yorkshire and Lancashire."

Judge Burchett's rulings on submissions by both sides are expected today.

### Hunte's comeback heartens the Saints

I don't believe it is a risk, or I wouldn't have put him in.

Hunte, the leading try-scorer at Saints for five of his six seasons there, said: "It's a big match to come back in, but I'm confident about the knee." He replaces Joey Hayes, who failed a fitness test on a hamstring injury yesterday.

Widnes has also gambled on proven class and experience, naming both the Hunte brothers in their line-up.

Paul Hulme, who has not played since bruising his ribs six weeks ago, has been included in the second row, while David Hulme, out for ever longer with a head injury, is one of the two substitutes.

The Widnes coach, Doug Laughton, says that both the Hunt brothers feel fit enough to play in the semi-final at Wigan's Central Park, where their experience of big matches will be of immeasurable value.

With a possible three races to go, Smith needs to post a score,

on average, five points better than Charles in each race to secure the place in Savannah.

Three firsts from three starts made Brazil's Claudio Cardoso master of the testing conditions off Dubai yesterday and set him up as favourite to take the gold medal in the Hobie Cat 16 World Championships. With the fleet cut down from 300 to a final 56, there should be just three races today to give Cardoso a prize that has been so close to his grasp but has always eluded him.

The main threats to Cardoso come from William and Lucinda Edwards, of South Africa, and Mark Laruffa of Papua New Guinea, crewed by Liz Wardley. The only Britons left in the competition, Matthew Eeles and Philip Hill, are lying 33rd.

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Dubai) Final standings after 23 races (out of 36):** 1. C Cardoso (Brazil) 68.6; 2. M Edwards (South Africa) 68.6; 3. M Laruffa (Papua New Guinea) 68.6; 4. D Hill (UK) 68.6; 5. J Sanchez of F Vitoria (Spain) 6.3-6.3.

**FRANKLIN TEMPLETON CLASSIC (Savannah)** Final standings after 10 races (out of 16): 1. D Hill (UK) 64.2; 2. J Granville (USA) 64.2; 3. P Chapman (UK) 64.2; 4. M Edwards (South Africa) 64.2; 5. C Cardoso (Brazil) 64.2; 6. M Laruffa (Papua New Guinea) 64.2; 7. F Borchsenius (Denmark) 64.2; 8. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 9. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 10. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 11. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 12. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 13. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 14. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 15. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 16. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 17. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 18. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 19. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 20. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 21. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 22. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 23. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 24. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 25. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 26. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 27. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 28. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 29. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 30. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 31. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 32. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 33. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 34. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 35. M Edwards (UK) 64.2; 36. M Edwards (UK) 64.2.

## Smith and Charles turn to calculator

### Sailing

# SPORT

## England must counter early barrage

### Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE  
reports from Karachi

If you had asked Michael Atherton before the start of this World Cup which of the Test-playing nations he would prefer to meet in the quarter-finals, his answer, without question, would have been Sri Lanka. Ask him that question today, and it would probably be anyone but.

Poor old England. Even when their skipper's pre-tour wishes are granted, they seem

the cup, but so far Sri Lanka have not so much beaten opponents as marmalized them. Rewriting the record books as they smite their way towards Faisalabad and tomorrow's match against England.

In the space of two weeks, Arjuna Ranatunga's team have become the most feared batting side in the tournament, swatting away fancied India as if it were a pesky mosquito, and generally treating opening bowlers with savage disregard.

Cork, whose chances are rated by Ray Illingworth as no more than "50-50," is still having treatment on his troublesome knee and will undertake two bowling sessions today, in a bid to assess his fitness.

If Cork does not play, a three-seamer attack plus two front-line spinners is the most likely option.

to have a habit of backfiring on them for, not only do they come up against the form side of the tournament, they may have to do without Dominic Cork, the one England bowler capable of taking vital early wickets with the new ball.

"It is vital we get it right against these boys in the first eight to 10 overs, so he has to be guaranteed 100 per cent fit," said Illingworth, sitting by the team hotel's pool in Karachi before yesterday's flight to Faisalabad — clearly overlooking the fact that Cork has not been all that fit since the recent tour of South Africa.

Illingworth is right, though, though having Dermot Reeve as one of the three seamers may be a risk Atherton will not take, and it may be down to Graeme Hick to fulfil one of the spinning roles to accommodate him.

However, if the frenetic hitting poses a problem, another stems from the large amount of left-handers — four of the top six — and, in particular, the extra room bowlers seem to give them outside the off-stump. Room that allows them to gain leverage and a full swing of the bat, two components crucial to successful pinch hitting.

Sri Lanka's early-order dashers, the left-hander Sanath Jayasuriya and right-handed Roshan Kaluwitharana, have been crucial to their electric starts, posting scores well over a hundred from the first 15 overs.

Clearly, with maybe no one to call upon to give England a breakthrough with the ball, someone will have to come off with the bat. "One-day cricket," Illingworth claims, "is all about your star performers playing well on the day. If Lara or Tendulkar get a hundred, their team wins. If Hick gets one for us, we'll hopefully win too."

Yet in spite of the daunting forecast, England have reas-

son to take heart. For one thing, Sri Lanka do not have any match-winning bowlers, and the winners-take-all situation of the knock-out stage may well nudge away at the bravado of their batsmen. After all, they have had two walkover victories to help boost their *modus operandi*.

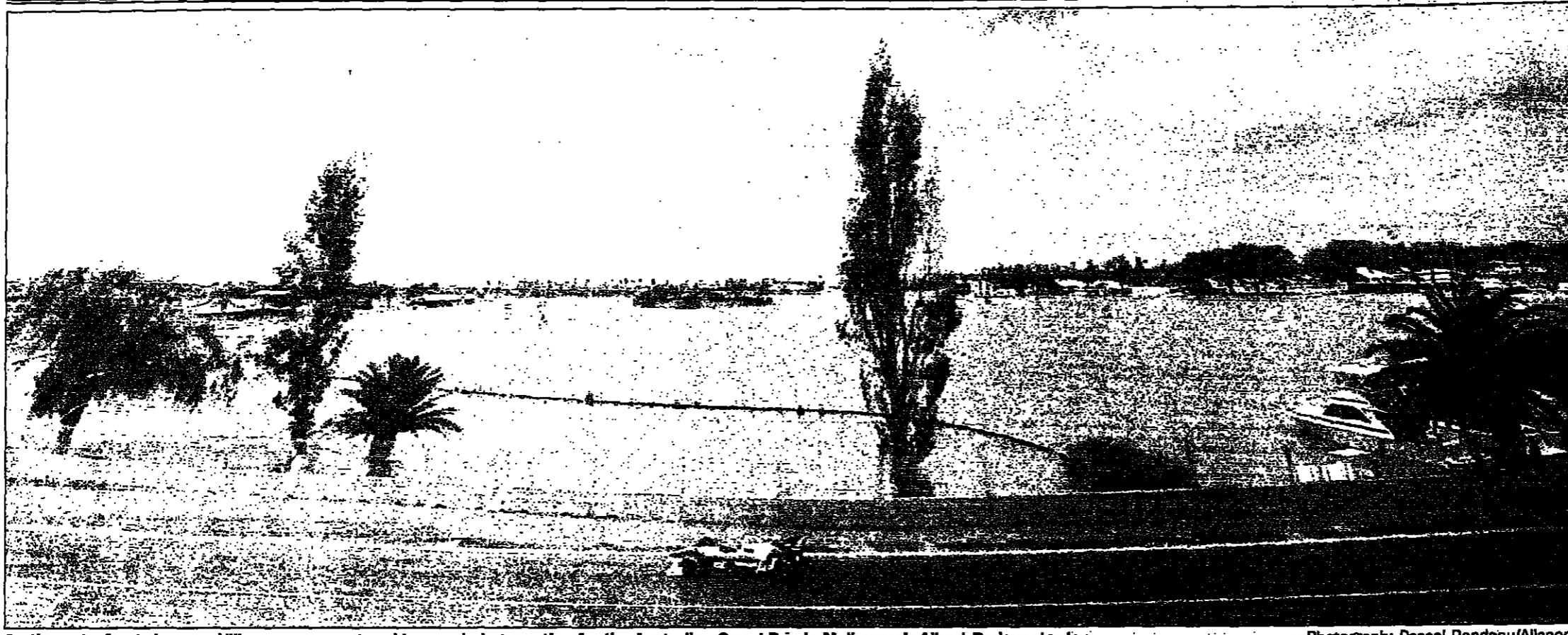
Clearly, with maybe no one to call upon to give England a breakthrough with the ball, someone will have to come off with the bat. "One-day cricket," Illingworth claims, "is all about your star performers playing well on the day. If Lara or Tendulkar get a hundred, their team wins. If Hick gets one for us, we'll hopefully win too."

Yet in spite of the daunting forecast, England have reas-

son to take heart. For one thing, Sri Lanka do not have any match-winning bowlers, and the winners-take-all situation of the knock-out stage may well nudge away at the bravado of their batsmen. After all, they have had two walkover victories to help boost their *modus operandi*.

There is no doubt that by treating the start of an innings like most sides used to do at the "death", Sri Lanka have turned the conventions of one-day cricket on its head. Tomorrow just for the day, it is up to England to stand upright again.

Battle of peacocks, page 24



On the waterfront: Jacques Villeneuve was out on his own during practice for the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne's Albert Park yesterday

Photograph: Pascal Rondeau/Allsport

## Villeneuve powers in to signal danger for Hill

### Motor racing

DAVID TREMAYNE  
reports from Melbourne

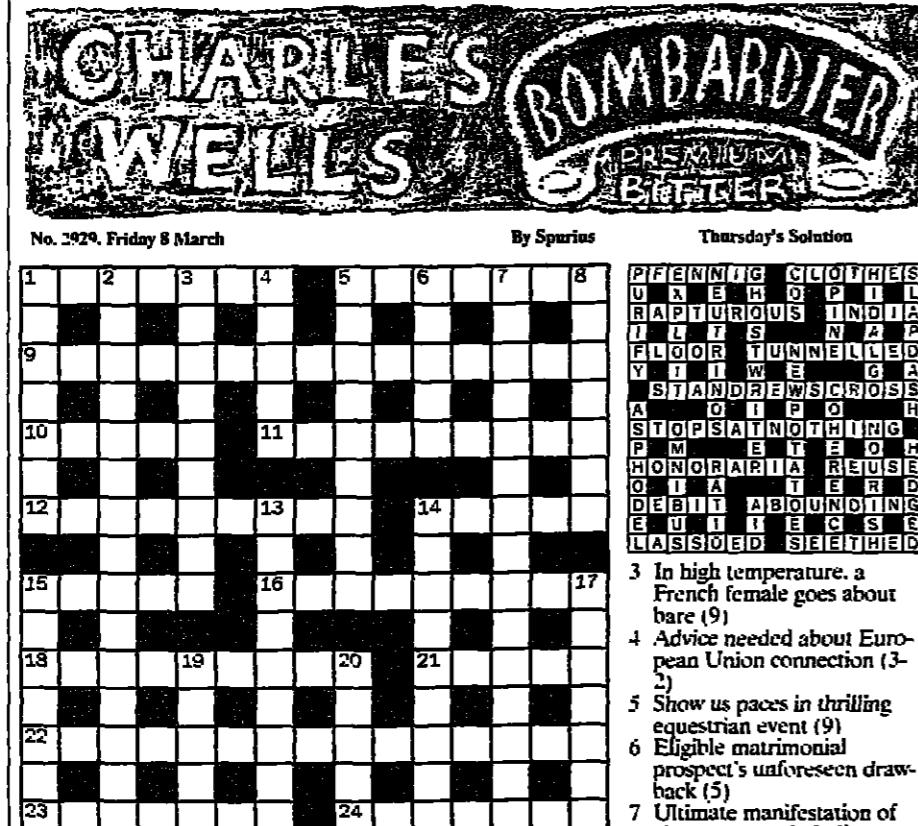
Jacques Villeneuve yesterday landed the first blows in what promises to be an ongoing psychological war with his Williams team-mate Damon Hill, when he emerged a comfortable fastest after the first day of unofficial testing for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Canadian

coaxed confidence as he lapped a full second quicker than his more "experienced" partner, Benetton's Jean Alesi was third, ahead of Michael Schumacher and the relatively inexperienced but impressive Jos Verstappen in the Footwork.

Schumacher had a frustrating day in the radical new Ferrari. The world champion recorded the day's fourth fastest time but could manage only ninth in the afternoon session — behind his team-mate Eddie Irvine.

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD in association with



**ACROSS**

- No-trump one short, unfortunately — East constrained to resume seat (7)
- Calm account provided in film (7)
- Being impulsive to pitch? (5,10)
- Pawn takes impure article away (5)
- Pose that's modified very quickly (9)
- Bill normally puts work his way (9)
- Damp is discovered in periodic inspection (5)
- Write critique of broadcast variety show (5)

**DOWN**

- Small coin dropped into crack produces echo (7)
- Fellows who want to be Master? (4, 11)
- 16 Hovering around square till morning? (9)
- Putting parts together to build steam yacht — isn't she wonderful? (9)
- A second tea, or a coffee? (5)
- Comment on letters from a military viewpoint (11,4)
- Quality the French expect from garages (7)
- Dog shown with Queen in short film (7)
- 17 In high temperature, a French female goes above (9)
- Advice needed about European Union connection (3-2)
- Show us paces in thrilling equestrian event (9)
- Eligible matrimonial prospect's unforeseen drawback (5)
- Ultimate manifestation of class structure? (9, 6)
- Some musclemen tend to be gentle (7)
- Sort of picture you get with satellite? (9)
- Obsession girl's shown about bloke from Arabian sultante (9)
- Return deposit after an interval (7)
- Carry around — for example registered kitchen appliance (7)
- Bird seen by old priestess, sitting on pole (5)
- Satirist from Westminster, on national newspaper (5)

Win a Weekend Break or a case of Bombardier Premium Bitter

CALL 0891 311 017

When you have the answers to the first three clues across AND the first three clues down phone 0891 311 017 and tell us your name with your name address and daytime telephone number by midnight tonight. Each day there is a case of Charles Wells Bombardier Premium Bitter to win. PLUS from all entries for the week a winner will be selected for a Weekend for two at a Charles Wells Country Hotel. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 39p per minute all other times. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received. No cash alternative. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editors decision is final. Winners names can be obtained by sending an SAE to — Charles Wells Crossword, Unit A, Bowes House, St Peters Road, Maidenhead SL6 7QU

Adrian Newey. "But Damon didn't really get a good crack at it. Don't write him off."

Villeneuve's immediate pace, however, will be the last thing Hill wants to see in the year in which he is favourite for his first world championship. It signals trouble ahead. "I was not expecting to be up there with such an advantage," Villeneuve said. "It is a surprise, but it feels great."

Though the circuit continues to prove highly unpopular with local protesters, who remain

steadfast in their plans to stage a demonstration on Sunday, it met with universal praise from the drivers. "It is a good track," Hill said. "It is actually much better now, having driven to it. I thought it was going to be yesterday."

Martin Brundle, 14th fastest in a Jordan, agreed: "It's good and quick. It's a bit bumpy in places under braking, so you need to be careful not to lock up the wheels, but it flows well."

"There are four places to

overtake, with a fifth if you're really brave or desperate!"

The only cloud over Williams' day was the news that they are the only team yet to agree to the terms of the super-licences issued by the governing body, the FIA, following prolonged disagreements over insurance clauses. This is traditionally the time of year when drivers and governing body clash over such matters but by the end of the day Bernie Ecclestone, the FIA's vice president of marketing,

had stepped in to smooth over the situation, and Hill and Villeneuve were expected to fall into line by this morning.

The 1995 Formula One season begins on Saturday 4 March. Top teams: Williams-Renault (Invn. 33-40), McLaren (31-32), Benetton-Renault (124-125), 4 M. Schumacher (Invn. 1-25), Jordan-Peugeot (1-26), 8 J. Villeneuve (Invn. 1-27), 12 G. Berger (Invn. 1-28), 13 G. Berger (Invn. 1-29), 14 P. Mansell (Invn. 1-30), 15 M. Blundell (Invn. 1-31), 16 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-32), 17 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-33), 18 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-34), 19 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-35), 20 A. Brundle (Invn. 1-36), 21 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-37), 22 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-38), 23 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-39), 24 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-40). Danger for Hill, page 27

and Villeneuve were expected to fall into line by this morning.

The 1995 Formula One season begins on Saturday 4 March. Top teams: Williams-Renault (Invn. 33-40), McLaren (31-32), Benetton-Renault (124-125), 4 M. Schumacher (Invn. 1-25), 8 J. Villeneuve (Invn. 1-26), 12 G. Berger (Invn. 1-27), 13 G. Berger (Invn. 1-28), 14 P. Mansell (Invn. 1-29), 15 M. Blundell (Invn. 1-30), 16 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-31), 17 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-32), 18 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-33), 19 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-34), 20 A. Brundle (Invn. 1-35), 21 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-36), 22 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-37), 23 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-38), 24 M. Moreno (Invn. 1-39). Danger for Hill, page 27

Venables' plan, page 27

## Roe reveals that he was close to suicide

### Golf

TIM GLOVER  
reports from Rabat

Mark Roe, who has a reputation as an extrovert on the European Tour, yesterday revealed that he came close to committing suicide following the break-up of his marriage. He sat in the loft of his home and placed a shotgun in his mouth. "I'd got to the point where I didn't want to live any more," Roe said.

He released the safety catch on the gun and spent five minutes with his finger on the trigger before deciding that "this was pathetic". Roe's 16-year relationship with his wife, Jane, ended in divorce after he had met Julia Morris, an employee of the International Management Group. "Everybody is different," Roe said. "Barry Lane, Nick Faldo and David Feherty were involved in marriage break-ups yet Barry had the best season of his life. If somebody had ever suggested that I would think of taking my own life I'd have laughed at them."

Roe, 34, from Sheffield, said he was making a fresh start and wanted to get the story off his chest. "I've always been a very emotional person who wears his heart on his sleeve. I'm rebuilding my life. I'm still putting the jigsaw together." Roe, who has moved into a cottage in Castleton in Derbyshire with Ms Morris, has won £1.3m in a successful career on the European Tour. Last season he slumped from ninth to 12th but finished 13th in the US Open — the leading European — and earned a place in the Masters at Augusta National next month. He was fined £2,000 last summer for unprofessional conduct when, at a tournament in Sweden, he knocked a six-inch putt 20 yards off the green during a round of 94. He was also fined for pouring a bowl of spaghetti over the head of fellow professional Russell Claydon at a Paris restaurant.

Yesterday Roe shot 79 in the first round of the Moroccan Open but he was not in a frame of mind to telephone the Samaritans. "If I'd scored that 12 months ago I'd have gone home," Roe said. "I'm going to stay out here and work on my game." He added that he has disposed of the gun.

Meanwhile, Europe's Ryder Cup captain found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. Most people were thinking about cleaning their teeth when Seve Ballesteros teed off at 7.45am. The Comeback drew a gallery of three people and they were rewarded with a round of 78, six over par.

"I don't want to talk about my swing any more," Ballesteros said. "I was hitting it all over the place. It's the same story all over again." When Ballesteros, fresh from a five-month sabbatical, entered the Moroccan Open the event was scheduled for Agadir. It was switched to the Royal Dar es Salaam here after Agadir took more rain than Manchester when Old Trafford is about to host a Test match.

The trouble is that Dar es Salaam, which was designed by the American Robert Trent Jones, is no place for those who are seeking recuperation. At 7,362 yards it is a long slog and, with cork trees lining the fairways, accuracy, as well as length,

is of paramount importance. Ballesteros was short and wayward. "I hit only five greens in regulation," he said. "I've no confidence at all."

Ballesteros, who had a solitary birdie, will have to find something today if he is to stand a chance of making the half-way cut. For inspiration he could do worse than to look at the chameleon-like performance of the Frenchman Marc Farry. When it comes to lacking confidence, nobody was lower than Farry. He missed the first four cuts of the season and was disqualified in Durban where he failed to receive a wake-up call and missed his tee time.

So far this year his expenditure is £8,000, income zero and the result, as Mr Micawber would have observed, is misery. "It's been a nightmare," Farry said. "I can't stand the heat so I suffered in Singapore, Australia and South Africa but I had to take the gamble of playing in Morocco to try and make some money."

In a practice round on Wednesday his game was awful.

"I was duck-hooking everything and duffing shots so I worked for a couple of hours on my swing." Yesterday he shot 69, one stroke off the lead held by the Swede Peter Hedblom.

Farry, though, remains unconvinced that having turned into a prince one day, he will not reappear as a frog the next. "I don't know if my swing will hold up under pressure," he said.

Working with Compaq and Microsoft, we deliver Windows NT server technology to the corporate market. To their industry, leading products we add experience in business critical solutions, like systems and data management.

Call us on 0181 232 8585 to find out more about our teamwork.

**MorseNT**  
*(The new division of Morse Group).*  
MorseNT is the new division of Europe's largest open systems reseller.

Working with Compaq and Microsoft, we deliver Windows NT server technology to the corporate market. To their industry, leading products we add experience in business critical solutions, like systems and data management.

Call us on 0181 232 8585 to find out more about our teamwork.

COPIER  
SYSTEMS RESSELLER

MorseNT 0181 232 8585



Roe: working on his game